

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB
TELLTALE

December 2014



Happy Holidays to All!



A Wild Wild Turkey!

Cover photo by Bruce McDonald

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Ray & Sandra's Sailing Adventure
Jan/Feb 2015 Telltale will come out in Feb
Submission deadline is February 2

SAVE THE DATE

December 31 New Year's Eve Party
January 1 Red Eye Regatta



Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow
will find it hard to sleep tonight...



Madeline Crouch, daughter of Lauren and Brendan, granddaughter of Claudia and John Bartlett, with Barry Thornton as Santa

From The Commodore

by John Morran



That was fast.

I am having a hard time processing that a year has flashed by and my term as Commodore has come to an end. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve AYC and feel that 2014 was a success both on and off the water.

On November 20, we had our Annual Membership Meeting. The first order of business was to officially elect the 2015 Board. I am very excited that we have several members returning for another year, rounded out with some very well qualified new members. I am happy to introduce your leadership team for 2015:

Commodore - Barry Bowden	Harbor - Wade Bingaman
Vice Commodore - Molly Isbell Lewis	Race - Ed Taylor
Secretary - Chris Ehlers	Building & Grounds - Doug Casey
Treasurer - John Howard	Sail Training - Eric Rochard

That night we also recognized a number of our outstanding members who went out of their way in 2014 to volunteer at AYC. This included all of the committee members who served on the following committees: Social, Communications, RC, Harbor, Buildings and Grounds, Membership, Long Range Planning, Sail Training and PB&J Coaches, Finance, the AYC Fund, Road Runner Fleet and Awards.

We recognized the following efforts for the special contribution in 2014:

Regatta Chairs:

Opening Day - Barry Bowden
Roadrunner Regatta - Stefan Froelich & Jeff Brock
Turnback Regatta - Barry Bowden
Centerboard Regatta - Mary Carew
Governor's Cup - John Parker
Independence Day Regatta - Chris Thompson
Wild Turkey Regatta & Red Eye Regatta - JoAnn Welles / Keel Fleet

Special Events:

RR Endless Summer - Jeff Brock & Stefan Froelich
FJ Summer Series - Debbie & Grey Rackley and Bonnie & Keith Lackey
Jeanne Socrates - Brad & Susan Davis
Fleet Challenge - Scott Young & Joanne Welles
Beer Can Races - Bruce McDonald
Wednesday Night Races - Kevin Reynolds

Always Helpful:

Vic Manning
John and Claudia Bartlett
Bill Records

Big Jobs:

Social Committee - Pat Manning
Telltale - Susie McDonald
Website - John Grzinich

Special Projects:

Septic System - Tom Groll

On December 7, we had the AYC Annual Banquet at The Broken Spoke. Thanks to **Pat Manning and the Social Committee** for organizing, decorating and hosting a fun time. Special thanks to **Maggie McElmurry** for making ceramic table decorations for the event. The highlight of the night was awarding the Club Perpetual Awards. The take home awards this year were beautiful glass artworks made by AYC member, **Sun Hi Casey**. Congratulations to all of the winners. And thank you to the super helpful Awards Committee – **Jan Thompson and Candace Miller**.

As I sign off and hand over the helm to **Barry Bowden**, I hope you will join me in thanking the AYC staff and 2014 Board for all their hard work.

Happy Holidays to all ... and don't forget the first race of the 2015 season is January 1st!

Vice Commodore Report

by Barry Bowden



I am excited for the opportunity to serve as Commodore of the Austin Yacht Club this coming year and for the honor bestowed on me by being named an "Old Salt of the Austin Yacht Club".

During the 35 years I have been a member of the Club, I have enjoyed serving as "crew" for both the Club and also racing on a number of boats, mostly with my best friend **Claude Welles**. The chance to be the "Skipper" for Austin Yacht Club this coming year has been a long time coming and I am looking forward to 2015. I am going to be joined with a great "crew" made up of the Board of Directors and our Club staff, **Jackie, Kate, and Tom**. We have already been busy planning for the New Year. As every racer knows, for a boat to perform well it must be well maintained, in good condition, and have all of the "crew" doing their jobs and work as a team if the boat is to win races. It is my intention that Austin Yacht Club will be operated in this manner during my watch as Commodore.

There are still projects that need to be done to replace and repair the Club assets such as docks and buildings that have been in service for a long time, some of which have been due to be replaced for several years. The Board and the Long Range Planning Committee have been meeting to develop a Capital Improvement budget and plan for the coming year. We will be conducting a survey of the members to see if there are any projects that the members see as priorities or any that we have not considered. As any business or family knows, there is only so much available in any one year and priorities need to be established on all projects.

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Harbor Report

by Wade Bingaman

Our race calendar for next year is in the planning stages, with one major event already on the schedule. The Austin Yacht Club will again return to the national scene with the scheduling of the 2015 US Optimist Dinghy Association Mid America Championship in June. This will be the first event of a national level to be scheduled since the 2013 Collegiate Nationals and we are excited to again showcase our Club and what is left of Lake Travis to a wider audience. We may not have room for larger boats, but there is plenty of water available for a huge fleet of Optimist dinghies. This is also an opportunity for our own large fleet of Optimist sailors that we have developed over the last three years to compete on a larger stage at their own home water.

The Board of Directors intends to continue the great job that our past boards have done and to see that our Club maintains its status as a premier sailing club that contributes to our area the opportunity for people of all ages to learn, develop, and continue to enjoy our special sport of sailboat racing. We will strive to do this regardless of how much water we have available. The members of your Club should be very grateful for the foresight that our founders showed when they chose and developed our great Austin Yacht Club. Everything will be done to continue this great place for many years to come.

Sail Training Report

by Eric Rochard



AYC Sail Training assistant coach **Kiel Killeen** has been accepted at SMU. He will be leaving Austin for Dallas in January. Kiel's experience of Junior Sailing will be greatly missed! Kiel joined AYC from Southern Yacht Club. SYC is one of the most successful Yacht Clubs in the U.S. for developing junior talents and we have been very lucky to enjoy Kiel's world level experience in Optimist!

With **Kate Noble** as our full time Sail Training Director at AYC, Sail Training has achieved a major goal, providing a continuous stream of new sailors to AYC. We are replacing this winter a portion of our Optimist fleet. There will be four Optimist IODA used boats for sale. This will be an affordable way to be competitive on the Texas Circuit.

In 2015 AYC will host a major Optimist event: the USODA Mid-America Championship June 20-21. We expect 100 Optimists on Lake Travis and will combine this event with the Roadrunner Regatta and the Texas Laser Championship! That will be a busy weekend for the Club.

Beyond Junior Sail Training, we will have in 2015 Sail Training sessions targeted to specific fleets. The Sail Training committee will work in the next few weeks with all fleet captains to define needs and preferred format. We want also to keep the FJ Centerboard momentum, so there will be a weekly series of Centerboard adult clinics in May for beginners and a Centerboard Weekend (clinic / rally) to bring back on the water the Thistle, Flying Scotts and other Centerboards.



The Harbor Committee has been very busy all this year. We started by organizing the beach area. Boats, cars, and trailers were spread out all over the beach. We created separate areas for car parking, small boat parking and trailer launch parking. The improperly parked boats and trailers on the point were moved. Abandoned boats have been removed from the beach. Now the whole area is much more usable.

The keel boat docks have had several improvements. Additional anchors, wench stands, and wenches have been added this year. This has made the whole dock system much stronger. Additionally, new walkways and "sliders" have been added to make access to the docks safer and easier for everyone.

Small boat sailors were not forgotten. In anticipation of higher lake levels we had the trees and brush cleaned out of the south cove. The old board boat docks had been ignored for some time. We moved them to usable locations where there was leeward access for the sailors. We have also tried to buy a few more years' usage from these old docks by making some repairs and adding flotation.

We have ordered four new board boat docks for the Junior system. When these are ready, which should be soon, we will move the replaced junior sections over to replace four of the VERY old board boat docks. My hope is that, if our finances continue to permit it, we will be replacing more board boat docks each year, until all our small boat sailors can have safe, proper docks.

Improvements in our access to all the docks has continued. We now have safe ramps (bridges) from the shore to the Junior pavilion and to the keel boat docks. Before the end of the year a new ramp to the Race Committee Dock will be in place. This allows all of us to more safely enjoy the facilities and activities of the club.

All year long I have stressed the need for all of us to pay our proper storage fees for our boats. These fees are the largest income stream for the Club. Although I am no accountant, my understanding is that this revenue source has been higher than originally projected for the year. We still have a waiting list for wet slips, but we have made some progress. However, members are continuing to file new requests for wet slips. So while several slips have been assigned, the wait list is only slightly shorter. I guess this is a good problem to have.

Next year there will be no let-up in the Harbor Committee's activities. Hopefully Dock 5 can be replaced. This will mean that all our keel boat docks are strong, connect properly to the walk ways, and have adequate wench systems. This is particularly important if (keep your fingers crossed) we have higher lake levels. Dock 5 currently relies on the other newer

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docks for strength. Once we move back into the AYC harbor, Dock 5 will need to be able to “stand alone”. So replacing it is important.

As mentioned above I hope we can continue to gradually replace our dilapidated board boat docks with new ones. This year we saved money because the lake level did not change much. Moving our entire dock system is expensive, and we were spared that expense. If next year has more drastic lake level changes much more of our money will be spent on dock moves leaving less for upgrades and improvements. However high or low water I think we will be able to continue to improve our harbor.

Sailing Director Report

by Kate Noble



While most of the activity at AYC is winding down for the year, our Junior Sailing Program will continue through December 14. Our junior sailors trained hard this Fall, testing their endurance on cold and blustery days! AYC hosted a very successful weekend-long practice for our Opti sailors November 22-23 with our friends at Houston Yacht Club. This was great preparation

for the seven AYC Opti sailors who traveled to Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans over Thanksgiving for the USODA Midwinter Champs. See **Coach Kiel Killeen's** article in this edition of the Telltale for the full report on their trip! The racing will continue this winter – **Spencer LeGrande, Michael Morran and Tony Slowik III** will make the trip to Coral Reef Yacht Club in Miami for Orange Bowl December 26-30 and Tony will head back to Southern YC January 17-18 for USODA Team Race Midwinters.

As we close out the 2014 season, I thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of such a special Club for another year. Our program has continued to grow in 2014 and it could not have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of the Austin Yacht Club membership. The volunteer support comes in many different forms – hands-on help at practices and regattas, new initiatives like the Roadrunner Endless Summer Series, ideas and feedback on existing and future programs, volunteer instructors for adult clinics, community outreach through events with organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters Central Texas and the Round Rock Kiwanis, the many generous donations in support of the Junior Sailing Program . . . the list goes on and on! The time, talent, and support of our volunteers helps build the foundation upon which we can continue to grow and better our Club; so thank you all for a great 2014 Sail Training season!

Many thanks are in order for those who made this year possible:

Our 2014 Junior Sailing Camp staff, led by **Kiel Killeen**, was exceptional. Thank you to counselors **Kiel, Taylor Crouch, Nikki Goodwin, Erin Hawk, Tracy Hawk, Meredith Morran, and Counselors in Training (CITs) Will Abrams, Ben Froelich, Michael Morran, and Noah Zahm**. Our 2014 team worked hard this summer to create a unique experience for each session of campers. Theme days, and new games and activities helped to energize our Junior Sailing Camp and make it the best yet!

Thank you to PB&J coaches **Fred Ford, Erin Hawk, Kiel Killeen, and Bill Records** and their assistant coaches **Tracy Hawk and Meredith Morran**! For anyone who has seen PB&J in action on those hot summer mornings, you know how much patience, creativity and energy it requires! This is one of the hardest (but most rewarding) jobs at AYC, so thank you all for your hard work!

Thank you to all of the members who served as volunteer instructors in 2014. Special thank you to former Sail Training Commander **Bill Records** for leading the Basic Keel Clinics and the popular new Cruise Clinic. I also want to recognize the army of female sailors (and male kitchen crew!) it takes to staff the Spring and Fall Women's Clinics. Our adult clinics and outreach programs are dependent on volunteers to provide boats for training, so a huge thank you is in order to those who welcomed students aboard their boats.

Thank you to all of the Junior Sailing Program parents who helped out at practices, regattas, social activities, etc. throughout the 2014 season. Your time spent keeps our program safe and efficient! Special thank you to the road-warrior Roadrunner parents! It was an incredible year for traveling AYC youth sailors with record numbers for participation and hardware! It takes a lot of time, resources and dedication to get these kids out on the road, and AYC's presence on the circuit has been an incredible boost to our program's visibility and growth.

Thank you to **Jackie and Tom**, who do so much behind the scenes to keep our programs and Club running smoothly! I couldn't ask for a better, more supportive team to work with!

Thank you to the 2014 Board of Directors, especially Sail Training Commander **Eric Rochard**, for your guidance, support and leadership over the past year! I look forward to working with Eric again next year to continue improving and expanding our training programs at AYC.

Last but not least, thank you to **Coach Kiel Killeen**, who will be leaving AYC and moving to Dallas at the end of this season to attend Southern Methodist University. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Kiel over the past year and half. I am so grateful for all that I have learned from him and for his outstanding contributions to Sail Training. Our program has grown not only in size, but in quality due in large part to Kiel and the talent, experience, and knowledge he has brought to AYC. You will always be a part of our AYC Roadrunner family, Kiel, and we will miss you! I wish you all the best as you move on to Dallas!

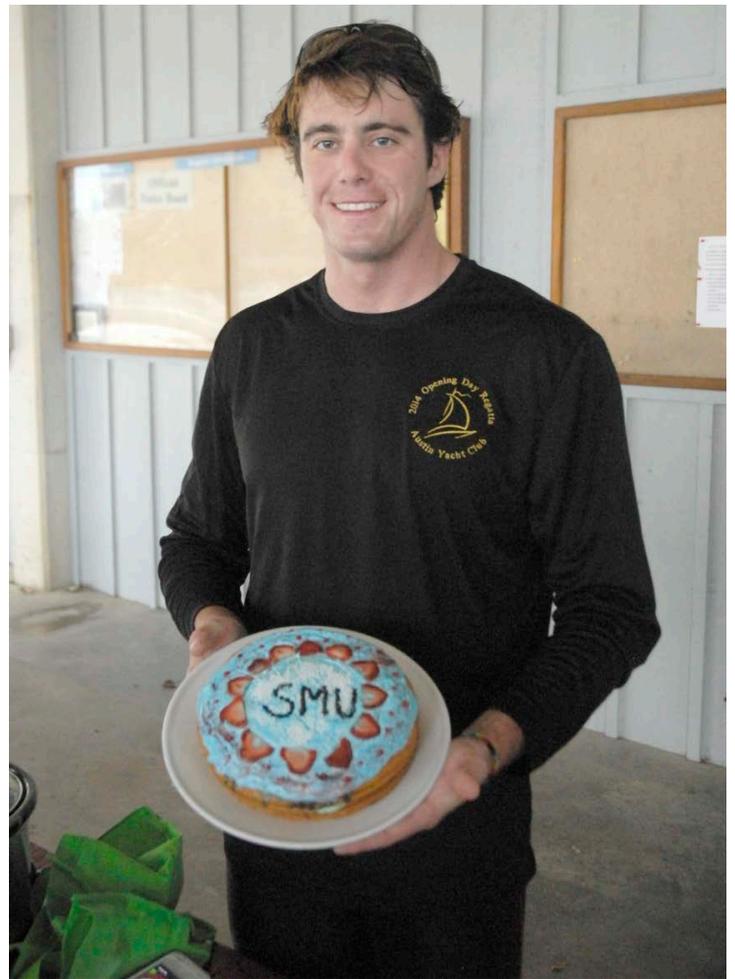
In addition to searching for a new Assistant Coach to take over in early 2015, I will be spending the offseason brainstorming, improving existing programs, developing new ones, and believe it or not; it's time to start gearing up for summer 2015! I would love to hear what you would like to see in 2015! Please contact me at kate@ausinyachtclub.net or call/swing by the office with any comments, suggestions, or thoughts on the 2015 Sail Training Program; or if you would like to volunteer and get involved!

USODA Midwinters Report by Kiel Killeen

Over Thanksgiving week, 250 of the nation's best Optimist sailors traveled to New Orleans for the midwinter championships at Southern Yacht Club. All competing for a spot on one of the four Spring international teams. AYC was represented by **James Brock, Lucy Brock, Tony Slowik, Ethan Froelich, Julius Heitkoetter, Alex Tita and Marcus Tita** who all did an amazing job competing against the best sailors in the country. Conditions were mostly medium-light winds and very choppy water conditions. Everyone on the team did a great job, giving it their best for four days of long races with little to no rest between races. So congratulations to the Roadrunners for an outstanding job and a special congratulations to **Tony Slowik** who went home with some hardware, placing 7th in white fleet!



Lucy Brock, James Brock, Alex Tita, Ethan Froelich, Coach Kiel Killeen, Tony Slowik III, Julius Heitkoetter and Marcus Tita



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 39th Annual

2015 Red-Eye Regatta

Thursday Jan 1, 2015 1:30 pm
An AYC Bloody-Mary Tradition brought
to you by the Keel Handicap Fleet



WILD TURKEY REGATTA

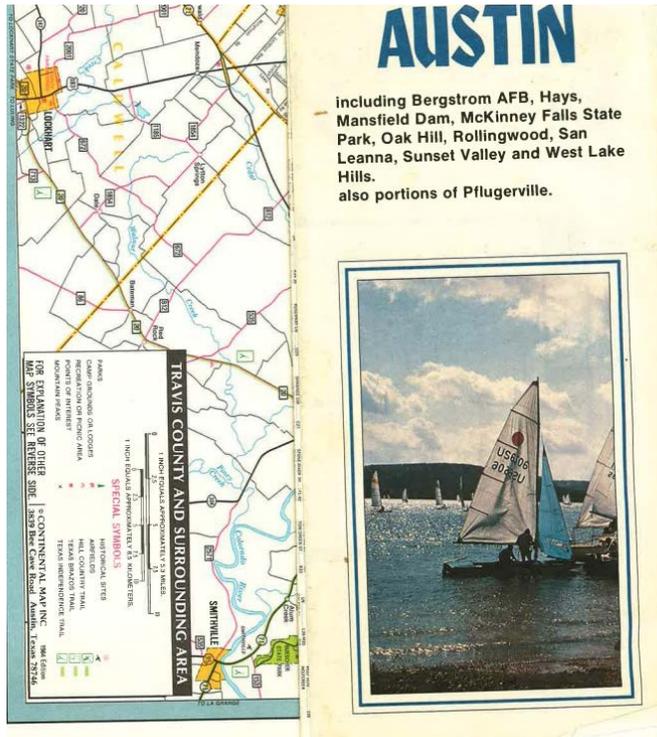
Photos by Bruce McDonald



More photos >>

More Wild Turkey





FLASH FROM THE PAST
 Jim Casto found this 1984 map in his father-in-law's car. Anyone know whose Fireball is at the dock in this picture taken at AYC?

Holiday Gift Ideas from the Souvenir Department at AYC

AYC Caps	\$15.00
AYC Fleece Jacket	\$32.00
AYC Fleece Vest	\$24.00
AYC Long Sleeve Tee	\$15.00
AYC Long Sleeve Wick Tee	\$18.00
AYC Soft Shell Jacket	\$46.00
AYC Engraved Multitool	\$20.00

Plenty of products available – sizes are limited.
 Email gm@austinyachtclub.net for sizes and availability.

2014 PERPETUAL AWARDS

Photos by Deborah Mathison



Stephanie and Stefan Froelich

JIMMY B. CARD MEMORIAL TROPHY

Besides raising a family and team of amazing, passionate, talented young sailors, Stephanie and Stefan have made great strides as sailors themselves in the year and a half they've been members. In this year alone, Stephanie and son Ethan placed second in the Centerboard Regatta FJ fleet. Stefan placed second in a summer series while filling in as skipper on a J70. Despite being committed as crew in the J22 fleet, both have been trusted to take over as skipper on several different fleets and many occasions including J22, J70 and FJ fleets. Both of them always bring a positive, winning attitude whenever crewing or helping others. Their dedication to sailing, their active participation in volunteering, and their positive attitude earn them this prestigious award.



Meredith and Michael Morran

JESSIE McILROY SMITH BOWL

Meredith and Michael Morran are incredibly talented sailors. They have been racing together for the past three seasons in the C420, during which time they have continuously competed in TSA Youth Circuit regattas. In 2012, Meredith and Michael competed in the C420 Canadian Nationals in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the CORK Regatta in Kingston, Ontario, and the Orange Bowl Regatta in Miami, FL. In 2013, they sailed in the C420 Midwinters in Florida, the CISA Advanced Racing Clinic in Long Beach, CA, the C420 North American Championships in Nova Scotia, and the Orange Bowl Regatta in Miami. The pair also won 1st place at the C420 Gulf States Championship and placed 1st Overall for the TSA Youth Circuit. In 2014, Meredith and Michael sailed in the C420 Midwinters in Florida, the Neill C420 Clinic in Chicago, the Sail Newport BEG Advanced Racing Clinic in Newport, RI, the Buzzards Bay Regatta in Marion, MA, the US Sailing Chubb Junior Championships (Bemis Trophy) in Traverse City, MI and the US Youth Championships in Grosse Pointe, MI. In that time, they have logged over 30,000 miles on road trips to these regattas. They have also enjoyed working at the AYC Summer Camps and PB&J Classes. Meredith (17) and Michael (15) have represented AYC well, with honor, courage, and tremendous sailing abilities nationally and internationally. They have more than earned the 2014 Jessie McIlroy Smith Bowl.

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Annie Frey

CORINTHIAN WOMAN

Annie was pretty much a novice sailor when she joined AYC just a couple years ago. After crewing for quite awhile and learning the basics, Annie bought her own Pearson 26 and has sailed in almost every AYC series race and regatta. Because of her passion for the sport and her consistent practice, Annie has improved tremendously and has progressed from last place to sailing competitively in her fleet. In addition to sailing, Annie has been an ever present volunteer, helping in many off the water events, race committee, and this year has served on the Social Committee, showing up to cook and clean up at nearly every event held at AYC. Annie is a nurse and heroically utilized her nursing skills to aide of one of her crew when he was injured during a race and then rushed him to the emergency room as soon as they could get off the water! Annie displays sportsmanship, the Corinthian spirit, and an attitude that we value and to which we would all do well to aspire. It is an honor to name Annie the 2014 Corinthian Woman of AYC.



Tom Groll

MAX WHITE MEMORIAL TROPHY



The Golden Plunger Award

As most of us know, Tom Groll is an excellent sailor. Over the years he has participated in most AYC series races, regattas, and beer can races, sometimes single-handing his Ensign. And when there are no races, he can often be seen on the lake, enjoying the lake, his boats, and his friends. Apart from his love of sailing, Tom has had an outstanding history of service to AYC since he joined many years ago. All his previous efforts combined were surpassed during these last three years with the design and installation of AYC's new septic system. We watched this summer as an army of porta-potties were brought in to the Club and enormous holes were dug on the grounds. Many members do not know that prior to 2014, Tom spent at least two years and hundreds of hours designing the system, applying for LCRA approval, working with LCRA to make multiple changes to the plan to meet the rigorous legal and administrative requirements for a commercial septic system – all behind the scenes. Most of the project he did on his own time. It was only this past year that members could see the result of Tom's years of dedication, expertise, and labor as the new system was built out. AYC could not afford to have had an outside engineer design and implement a system like that we now have – one that will serve AYC many years into the future. His diligence in eliminating water waste not only saved AYC thousands of dollars, it has also helped in keeping water in the lake. In addition to Tom's considerable engineering expertise, AYC has had the pleasure of his friendship, his participation in all things sailing and his willingness to help anyone who asked for help, and sometimes even if they didn't. The Austin Yacht Club is truly blessed to have Tom as one of our own!

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Maggie McElmurry

LIZ BAUMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY

For a beginning sailor, Maggie McElmurry has made quite a splash in the Opti Fleet at AYC. She is the unanimous choice of her coaches and fellow Junior Roadrunners for both most improved sailor and sailor who best exemplifies the AYC spirit. Having sailed for less than a year, Maggie is already a very competitive sailor, placing well at AYC regattas against sailors with much more experience. She is always a cheerful presence on the water, and always a good sport; everyone knows that she will play fair with a big smile and a positive attitude. Because of Maggie's growing skills on the water and her Corinthian attitude, she was tapped to be Bill Records' junior assistant PB&J coach this year. Maggie contributes to AYC off the water as well – this year she designed and created unique and artistic trophies for two AYC regattas! Maggie continues to use her creative talents to make and market her ceramic trophies and gifts with her eye on the prize – she is saving the proceeds from her business to purchase her own Opti! The junior program is proud of Maggie and her peers feel they are lucky to have her as part of their team!



Tony Slowik

RON H. HARDEN MEMORIAL TROPHY

Tony has excelled this past year in the Opti Fleet both in his sailing accomplishments and in sportsmanship. In only his second year on the Texas Sailing Association Circuit, Tony won 12 of 15 regattas in the White Fleet Division, won overall at two of the regattas, and in the end placed 3rd overall in the entire state of Texas. He was the highest placing White Fleeter. Tony qualified for Team Trials not once but twice! At Texas Youth Race Week, he won 1st in White Fleet and sixth overall. At Nationals in Marina Del Rey, California he placed 5th in White Fleet. Tony was #1 in Texas and 5th in the nation and these accomplishments placed Tony well above the club level. He also placed 3rd in White Fleet at the Gulf Coast Championships. He won the Turnback Canyon Regatta for the second year in a row with straight bullets and the 1st in the AYC Centerboard Regatta despite missing the first race completely!

In addition to his pretty phenomenal sailing skill, Tony is always ready and willing to assist his fellow sailors, regularly helping his teammates rig before practice and before regattas. He is usually the last to derig at the circuit regattas because he is busy helping other kids getting their boats out of the water and derigged. Tony consistently helps his teammates in races and regattas whether it is giving advice about where to start on the line or how to adjust rigging in changing conditions or which side of the course is favored. Tony is an incredible sailor and a gracious teammate. He has raised the bar for AYC junior sailors. AYC is just the beginning for this young sailor.

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Barry Bowden

OL' SALT OF THE AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

When we asked Bill Records if he had a photo of Barry to use for the white boards and the Telltale, Bill responded that the only photos he had were of Barry in front of a microphone. Which is really strange since we all know Barry definitely does not need a microphone. Members know him by his booming voice, his participation in every aspect of AYC, and his love of sailing. He can certainly sound gruff but we also know he's a marshmallow underneath it all! Barry and Twila joined AYC in 1979. Since that time, Barry has likely competed in more races than anyone else at the Club. Besides participating in most Wednesday night races in his Sunfish or Laser, Barry has raced with his good pal, Claude Welles, in club series races and regattas and in many out of town events, including two J80 Worlds, Key West Rae Week, Charleston Race Week, J80 North Americans, and a multitude of circuit races. In addition to his competitive participation on the water, Barry has spent countless hours tending to Club grounds, the harbor, and AYC business and running race committee. Because of Barry's unceasing labors, AYC was able to host epic Intercollegiate Sailing Association National Championship races in 2012 despite record low lake levels. Barry is there wherever and whenever help is needed. We know him for his dedication to Sunfish racing, for his attendance at each and every AYC event, and for his board service. It is through these efforts that he has become a respected leader at AYC. We're proud of ye, Barry. And we're proud to call you friend.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AWARDS



AYC 2014 Board of Directors

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Membership Committee



Communications Committee



Sail Training and PB&J Coaches



Regatta Chairs



"Always Helpful"



Special Events – Fleet Challenge

More photos ▷▷



Wednesday Night and Beer Can Races



Special Events – Roadrunner Endless Summer



Special Events – FJ Summer Series



AYC Website and Social Committee ("Big Jobs")



Social Committee

More photos >>



AYC Office Staff



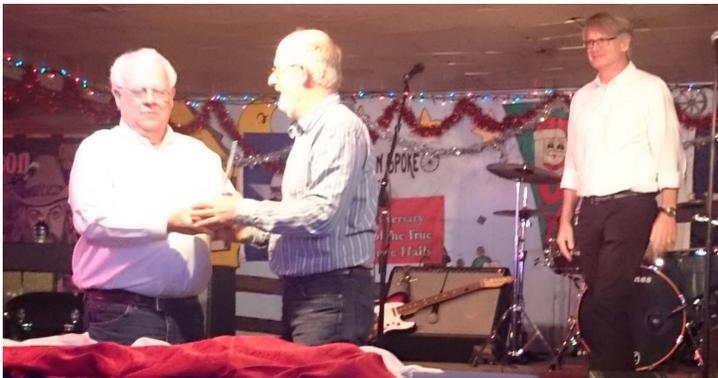
Special Events – Jeanne Socrates Presentation

ANNUAL BANQUET PHOTOS



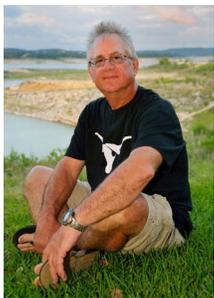
Thank you Annual Banquet photographers:
Candace Miller, Tony Slowik, Claudia Bartlett

[More photos >>](#)



J22 Fleet Update

by Bob Mathison



What a year it's been. The fleet participation in series racing was up this year with as many as nine boats on the line at one time and consistently averaging five to six boats, and competition has been exciting with boats coming out of nowhere to challenge the order of finish. This competition has been fun, instructional and humbling, all adding up to some great experiences on the water.

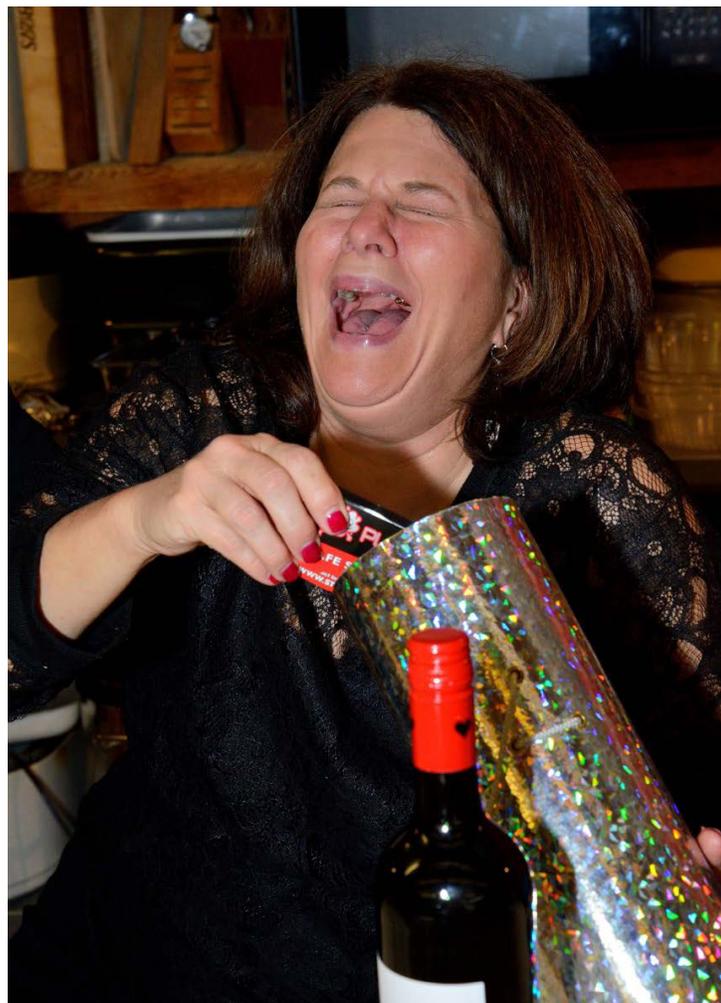
2015 is shaping up to be a great year for our fleet as we have all our returning skippers and we've added three new ones, plus there's rumor that we could see another returning AYC veteran soon.

We closed out the fleet social year with the combined J22/J24 holiday party at the clubhouse and it was a wonderful time. After polling the fleet for award nominations I settled on three awards to present at this and future end of the year parties.

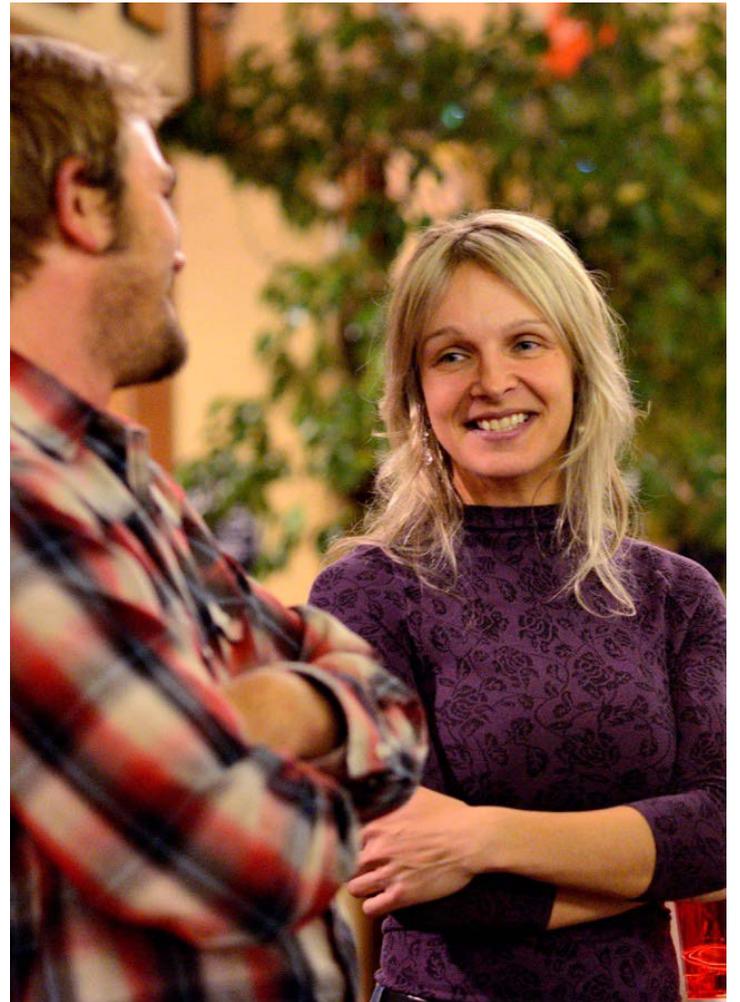
- **Fleet Champion**, awarded to the sailor who was a consistent winner in series racing, represented the fleet well at AYC functions and also served as a mentor to new and used fleet members. This year's winner is **Renee Ruais** and she received a \$25 gift card to West Marine.
- **Most Improved in Fleet Series Racing**, awarded to the sailor who has consistently improved their skills and knowledge on the racecourse and also on race committee. This year's winner is **Gordon Miller** and he received a \$25 gift card to West Marine.
- **Most Valuable Volunteer**, awarded to the person who consistently stepped forward to serve the fleet in planning and executing fleet events, including committee duty. This year's winner is **Candace Miller** and she received a \$25 gift card to Trader Joe's.

Please take a moment to congratulate each of these deserving sailors and thank them for making us a better fleet and contributor to AYC.

As we look forward to 2015 I hope to expand our fleet leadership by adding a **training coordinator and racing coordinator**. The training coordinator would identify the training needs of the fleet and coordinate with AYC and other fleets to secure that training. This would include, but not be limited to, the rules of racing, committee duty responsibilities, boat maintenance and racing techniques. The racing coordinator would identify and solve crew needs within the fleet to help skippers identify crew that can be trained and retained throughout the racing seasons. This person would also help to coordinate with our circuit regatta racers to encourage and support those skippers wanting to take their skills to the circuit level. Of course, none of this can be accomplished without a volunteer so I look forward to hearing from our members to discuss these and other desires moving forward.



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J22-J24 Party Photos by Deborah Mathison

J24 Fleet Update

by John and Meiling Parker



J/24 Launching/Retrieving

The lake level rose since the last writing due to significant rain and is currently near 623.6' MSL. At this level, the metal ramp on the north side is usable for J/24 launching and retrieving.

Please contact **David Broadway**, **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás**, or **John Parker** if you would like any information on techniques for using the metal ramp with your J/24.

Local Racing

Fall Series (Oct 26 – Nov 16)

The Fall Series brought a total of five J24s to compete. Participants included **Dave Broadway**, **Stuart Juengst**, **Chris Hammel**, **Joe Mancuso**, and **Pat Hitchins/Mark Hulings**. At the end of the series, the Mothership Connection team took the first place prize!

Wild Turkey Regatta (Nov 29)

The J24 fleet joined the J22s in the B Handicap fleet for this race. The fleet was eight-deep with the participants evenly split between the J24s and J22s. The Saturday event brought more than enough breeze for the J24s and J22s to run an 11 mile course within three hours. J24 participation included El Boracho, helmed by **Dr. Gamble**, Chupacabra by **John Parker**, Mizzmo by **David Grizzle**, as well as Mothership Connection by **Patrick Hitchins**. In this event, visiting J24 Texas Circuit champion, **Stuart Lindow**, joined the Chupacabra team as a walk-on. The El Boracho team and team Chupacabra took home first place and second place "trophies" home respectively.

Out of Town Events

Texas Circus – Lake Canyon Yacht Club (Nov 15 – 16)

The Austin Yacht Club J24 fleet showed in full force at the Lake Canyon Yacht Club with six of the 13 boats competing. Teams Giggles, Vang Go, Superman, Ooh Ahh, Jolly Bevo I, and Chupacabra enjoyed the two-day event. The first, cold, rainy, and foggy day of the regatta resulted in a couple of attempted starts and ultimately abandonment for the day. The second day saw three races. At the end of this 7th J/24 circuit stop of 2014, **Natalie Penner** and team Giggles took the best AYC boat placement as 5th for the regatta.

If you would like your email address added to the J24 Fleet mailing list, please let us know. We use the mailing list periodically throughout the year to communicate upcoming events with the fleet.



Brayton Mager enjoying J22-J24 fleet party. Photo courtesy Deborah Mathison



Dave Broadway and Laura Miller laughing about "stolen" White Elephant gift at J22-J24 fleet party. Photo courtesy Deborah Mathison

Social Events

J22-J24 Christmas Party (December 6)

The end of year Christmas party is always a blast with the J24 and J22 fleets. We enjoyed a great time with delicious smoked turkey (thanks to **Pat Caughey**), brisket, ham, sides, and desserts, drinks and great company. The 2014 fleet awards were provided to Crew MVP, **Reed Cleckler**, for his service to team Giggles, most Active New Member to **Chris Hammel** for leading the Jolly Bevo I team, and J24 Fleet Champ, **Stu Juengst** for his overall participation in 2014 of well over 50 races completed on Vang Go either locally or on the J24 circuit. Also, **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** was given the Fleet MVP award for his tireless service to the J24 fleet. In addition to the fleet awards, the fleet captain nomination was made and **John Parker** will continue serving the J24 fleet in this role in 2015. Congratulations and thank you to all of the 2014 award winners, skippers, officers, crew, and volunteers as we wrap up 2014 and look forward to 2015.

Keel Fleet Update

by Chris Thompson

While sailing activity typically diminishes in November and December, the Club is still a bustle of organizational and social activity. The installation of new officers and regime change is exciting and confusing all at once. As the new Keel Fleet Secretary I'm looking forward to providing communications to the fleet and contributing in any way I can. Following the annual meeting, the new KHF board held an impromptu session to share ideas. Communication and Participation is our mantra for the year. We will do our best to let you know what is going on and listen to your input; you just need tell us what you like (or dislike), and then come out and sail so we can enjoy and promote our sport!

If you are not a member of the Keel Handicap Fleet and would like to join please drop me a note or call. A measly \$15 gets you \$5 off each of the three KHF regattas (Red Eye, Independence Cup & Wild Turkey). If you are a member and are not getting our emails please let me know so I can update our (too many) lists (Yes – I'm on a mission).

Wild Turkey Regatta

34 boats split into four starts braved the blustery conditions for some excellent long distance racing. I think I heard the comment "we broke . . ." a number of times at the party. The traditional elixir that shares the regatta name made for a nice reward to the victors for a hard days sail. Thanks to **Ed Taylor** and the Race Committee and **JoAnn Welles** and all the other volunteers for a great event. Congrats to all the prize winners and racers!

Fleet - # Registered	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Multi Hull – 6	John Kuc	Bo Kersey		
A – 7	Claude Welles	Matt Romberg	Brigitte Rochard	Christina Wolfe
B – 8	Dave Gamble	John Parker	Renee Ruais	Patrick Hitchins
C – 9	Bill Records	John Durfor	Bob Stephens	Bob Gallant
D (Ensign) – 4	Tom Groll	George Dahmen	Randolph Bertin	Elliot Bray

The C/D Fleet + Ensign start was quite exciting with 13 boats trying to head up into the southerly swirl. The Pearson 26 contingent making another strong showing with four boats. There was lots of yelling but no collisions or fouls. **Bruce McDonald** has some great shots posted via a link on the website. I count about 10 of 13 boats at the start in the picture below. Being in the middle of this was quite exhilarating; especially for the 1st time sailor I had aboard – one of the things I love about sailboat racing.



Photo by Bill Records

2015 Officers

This year's Keel Handicap Fleet Officers and Sub-Fleet Captains are:

Captain: Hector Lujan **A fleet:** Claude Welles
Treasurer: Steve Vaughan **B fleet:** TBD
Secretary: Chris Thompson **C fleet:** Bill Records

Email contact information for everyone is listed on the Keel Fleet web pages and I believe the AYC Directory listings are up to date. As of this time we are still looking for a B Fleet Captain. The main duties are chairing a KHF regatta, organizing fleet assigned Race Committee three or four times over the course of the sailing season and communicating with your fleet. Let one of the officers know if you are interested.

2015 Ratings Committee

The normal rotation has us saying a big thank you to **Gray Rackley (A)** and **Linda Cznovsky (C)** for their service and a warm welcome to **John Maddalozzo (B)** and new member **Justin Wolfe (A)**.

Fleet Splits

The fleet splits for 2015 have been adjusted to move some boats into B Fleet to hopefully help boost participation in that fleet.

Fleet +>	A	B	C	Non Spin
2015 PHRF	0-124	125-195	196 and up	+9 sec per mile

Frequent Sailor Program

The awards given out at the end of the meeting were based on participation in Keel Fleet events and AYC regattas. Almost 100 different skippers were eligible for prizes. A few skippers had around 10 entries based on strong participation in nearly every event. Coolers, boat cleaning supplies, dock lines, and car emergency kits made up the prizes. Couples seemed to be the lucky ones present that night with prizes going to the **Welles, the Rochards, the Huths, Jim Johnstone, Bruce McDonald**, and a couple other skippers I lost track of in the excitement. Everyone seemed to enjoy the prizes so we will see about continuing the prize pool for next year.

Red Eye Regatta

Thursday January 1 will be the Red Eye Regatta. More details will be available shortly. The outgoing KHF officers are organizing the event and I'm sure volunteers will be needed. Let me know if you are interested and I will direct you to the right person.

Frostbite Series

In an attempt to attract more boats for series events the KHF is experimenting with an option for slower cruisers with mid range PHRFs (who usually sail non-spin). Boats that are currently rated in B Fleet who meet the criteria can request a Fleet Variance based on their Sail Area to Displacement Ratio. Boats with a SA/D of 18 or below, based on published data, will sail with their normal PHRF rating (and Non-Spin correction, if applicable) but will be scored against C Fleet boats. This request will be processed through the Ratings Committee and must be approved by both fleet captains before the series start. More details will be available soon on the Keel Fleet web page.

THANK YOU

To all the volunteers and fellow Club members and "mentors" who helped me through the year as C-Fleet captain. The volunteer centric attitude at AYC makes it a place that seems to give back more than you give it. Bestest Wishes to you and yours for the Holiday Season.

KEEL FLEET WANTS YOU!

Participation is our number one fleet priority this year. We hope to see you racing, cruising or on the patio!

Please support us with your \$15 dues. Take a moment. Send a short email with your member number to Chris Thompson at goboatin@gmail.com

Join us for a great year! Come out to our social events, beer can races and parties.

Also, please tell your officers what you want and how we can get you on the water. Do you need steady crew? Shorter series? Fewer series? Saturday series? More fleet-specific social events? Longer pool hours? We will act your thoughts, so everyone can enjoy our water. Call us.

Thanks! Hector Lujan, Keel Fleet Captain

hlujan45@aol.com

512-963-8463

A Fleet Update

by Eric Rochar

This is my last report for A Fleet. **Claude Welles** will be the A Fleet captain for 2015, please provide him your support for A Fleet duties!

Participation

Overall the A Fleet participation was good (seven boats average) despite the very low level of the lake through the year, about half of the fleet was J80. Most of the A Fleet is now on lift in the floating docks so they do not have to worry about the temporary ramp at the north. This bumpy road and steep ramp are not keen to sport boats and cause damage to hulls and keels.

Race Format

2/3 of the sailors have requested RTB racing for the A Fleet. Their motivations were:

- Keep the fleet tighter with two short races
- More starts, maneuvers
- Format similar to Texas Circuit

1/3 of the sailors would rather enjoy long distance races for the following reasons:

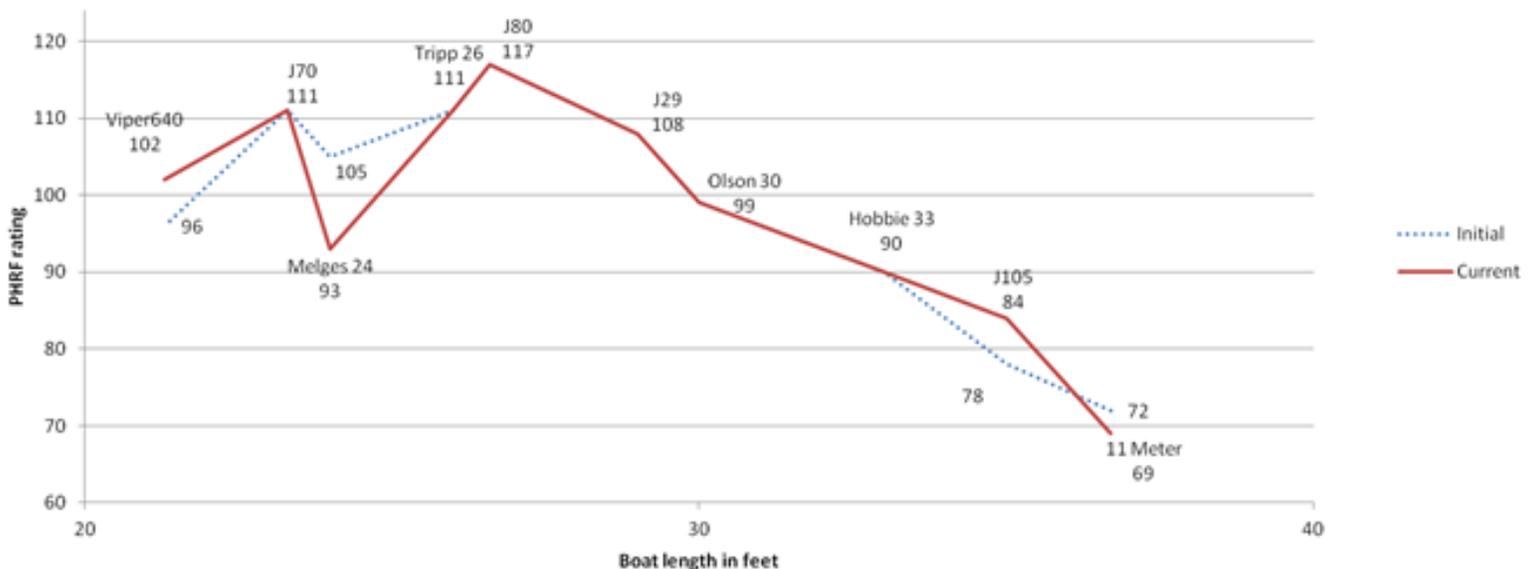
- Less maneuvering (short-handed crews)
- Longer beat for more strategy

We will start 2015 with long distance races for the Frostbite series and then go back to RTB for the Spring Series.

Ratings

There is an active request for rating review in the A Fleet. It is for the Tripp 26. For reference here is a summary of A Fleet PHRF ratings (ordered by boat length).

AYCA-Fleet PHRF ratings



Ensign Fleet Update

by Bill Hawk

The 2014 racing year closed out with a bang for Ensign Fleet 30 at the Austin Yacht Club. The leading news, of course, were the honors and lack thereof which were bestowed on the fleet members for their service and participation in Club activities. **Tom Groll** won the Max White Memorial Trophy for his design and construction of the upgraded sewer system, but those of us who have known Tom (and the Club) for some time realize that this should have been a cumulative award for the incredible number of hours Tom has spent over the years working on the Club grounds, docks, harbor, and other facilities. Be sure to congratulate and thank him when you see him!

On top of that, Tom has also (finally) completed the restoration of Ensign 578, the Medley of Vegetables. It is easy to find the Medley – just look at the front of the Ensign fleet in any recent (Wild Turkey) or upcoming race!

The “avoided honor” for the Fleet was the near miss of winning the Blue Duck award – this was a tight competition, but our beloved AYC Multi-Hull Fleet came through to rescue the Ensign sailors from this honorable disgrace. **Doug Laws, Elliott Bray, and crew** ran a close second in the voting, but the Lost Boys (including some of Doug and Elliott’s crew for their incident, I believe?) managed a last-second victory.

Finally, Fleet 30’s Annual Meeting has been set for the evening of January 10 at **Jonathan and Tamara Baker’s** house. Email or talk to any fleet member – or get on the Fleet Mailing List – for more details. Remember, show up or be elected!!

ASA105 Basic Coastal Navigation Course

by Harry Polly

Winter is a great time to work on one’s navigation skills. The American Sailing Association (ASA) offers an excellent self-directed coastal navigation course. There are four basic navigation approaches: dead reckoning, coastal navigation, celestial, and electronic GPS navigation. Each of which establishes a fix using latitude and longitude.

Dead reckoning is the most accent navigation technique. It relies on estimating ones position by assuming the same speed and course. For example, if I am sailing at 5 miles per hour on a course of 100 degrees, in an hour I should be five miles further along my course line. In other words, I am assuming no set and drift taking me off course. Set is the direction a current is taking you while drift is the speed at which the current is flowing. Leeway is the effect of wind a sailboat’s progress. Dead reckoning ignores set, drift, and leeway. Mastering dead reckoning is the first navigation skill needed to apply coastal navigation techniques.

Coast navigation utilizes identifying actual coast features on a chart and visualizing them while sailing then taking a compass reading from your boat to establish ones position or fix. A key component of coastal navigation is determining a line of position (LOP). A LOP will not give you a fix but will give you an indication of where you are along a known line from your

boat to a coastal feature. The crossing of two LOPs is known as a fix. There are several ways to obtain a fix or a known position. The most common is the crossing of two LOPs. A three LOP intersection is considered the most accurate way to fix one’s position. A running fix uses one coastal feature observed at two different points in time to establish a fix using only one coastal feature. Finally, one can use a single LOP and the water depth to determine a fix. In the ASA105 course, you will learn how to calculate each of these methods.

The third navigation method is celestial navigation where one uses the stars, sun, moon, and planets to determine one’s position. LOPs are used from the celestial features one can observe. In order to become proficient in celestial navigation, one must understand and master coast navigation techniques. Celestial navigation uses a sextant and sight reduction tables to calculate a fix. This method was used historically and is dependent on clear skies to shoot the celestial feature being used to determine one’s position.

The fourth navigation technique is using the Global Position Satellite system (GPS) where one establishes a fix by using electronic LOPs from satellites. GPS is fast becoming the preferred method of navigation for most recreational sailors. Nevertheless, electronic navigation systems are not “fail proof.” Batteries can fail and GPS satellites can be obstructed. Understanding coastal navigation techniques can be critical in making the GPS techniques work. Many master navigators use a GPS as their back up method to confirm their coastal fixes.

ASA105 Basic Coastal Navigation can be your winter project. The course covers all the aspects of coastal navigation: dead reckoning, line of position, fixes, danger bearings, tide tables, current, set, drift, leeway, true north, magnetic north, compass north, reading Coastal Pilots, dipping a light, using water depth to determine ones location, and much more.

Upon successful completion of the ASA105 Basic Coastal Navigation course, one will be able to serve as navigator on most sailboats sailing in coastal waters around the world. By studying one to two hours a week, one can complete the course in four to six weeks.

The course costs \$395 which includes your own study manual, navigation DVD to keep, practice chart, two hour private lesson to get you started, and unlimited email and phone counseling. To sign up or find our more, call or email Captain Harry Polly – 214-598-5071 harry.polly@hotmail.com

Ray & Sandra's Sailing Adventure

by Ray Shull

11/30/2014

We left the Florida Keys a few weeks ago and sailed across the Gulf Stream to Bimini, in the Bahamas. However, before we left the Keys, we experienced a few more adventures that we'll remember from our time in the Florida Keys and Marathon, Florida.

One of the most enjoyable experiences involved a visit to the boat by a mother and baby manatee. I was outside in the cockpit working on a project, when I heard what sounded like a whooshing sound in the water next to the boat. As I peered over the side to see what it was, I was face to face with a baby manatee and its mother. They had apparently come into the marina area searching for food and fresh water. There was a boat several slips down from ours that had a significant amount of algae growing on its hull (think long thick green whiskers about a foot long all around this boat). It appeared that the manatees cleaned off a little of the algae. I don't know if they liked it, but if they could be trained to do a thorough job, I think a whole new business opportunity could be at hand.

I called Sandra to come look at these adorable creatures, and they swam over to her and seemed as interested in her and she was in them. They swam around the slip area for about thirty minutes, with the little one more curious and exploring the marina, and the mother more interested in watching us.



Above: Manatees letting Sandra scratch their heads with her toes; Below: Adult manatee getting a drink from a hose that was "accidentally" left on

A few days later we prepared for our crossing of the Gulf Stream to the Bahamas. The main rule that I had read and heard over and over again for crossing the Gulf Stream was to not cross it when there is a wind over ten knots with the word "north" in its direction. Several sailors had relayed scary stories of crossing attempts involving intense sea sickness, boat breakdowns, miserable conditions, and instances where seasoned sailors turned around and sought refuge from the conditions. Apparently even moderate northwest, north, or northeast winds will cause a steep, heavy chop in the Stream that is at best uncomfortable, and at worst dangerous. We had planned to leave for Bimini around October 25, but for nearly a week we had only north or northeast winds well over fifteen knots. We wisely stayed in Marathon and waited for the conditions to change. Finally, the weather forecast for after November 5th looked promising, and we decided to sail across the Stream on Friday, November 7.

We also noticed a couple of days before our departure date that the moon was becoming nearly full. Checking on the moon phases, we found that we would have a full moon on our planned night for the crossing. The wind was forecast for Friday evening to start out of the northwest, and then switch to the southwest, and then the following morning move to the southeast. Things were looking pretty good for our sail.

We planned to leave Marathon at 4 pm, so that we would arrive in Bimini the following morning late enough to have an overhead sun. The cruising guides all advise to only sail in the shallow waters of the Bahamas during daylight hours due to the shifting sands, (which result in changing water depths), a lack of complete charts for all areas, coral heads that are uncharted and may appear unexpectedly, and numerous missing or non-working beacons and markers.

We said goodbye to our friends in Marathon, (especially the Marina security cat Buddy who had adopted us as his favorite boat), and sailed near the seven mile bridge one last time. As we turned to the northeast toward Bimini, we unfurled the sails and headed to our destination some 120 miles away. We were treated to another gorgeous sunset, and we were even rewarded us with an awesome green flash as it dropped below the horizon.

An hour or so later, the promised full moon appeared on the eastern horizon, looking larger than possible and casting an orange shimmer across the water. By this time we were in the eastern edge of the Gulf Stream, and our boat speed was consistently over 8 knots over the ground. We were enjoying a gorgeous, fast ride to Bimini.



The full moon lighting our way

At about three the next morning, I was napping with Sandra driving, when she woke me from my slumber with "Ray, can you wake up and look at this?" As I became aware of what was around us, I noticed a huge cruise ship approaching on our aft starboard side. Sandra said, "They seem to be coming up on us fairly fast, and I thought you should wake up to check on it." The winds had lightened considerably, such that we were only doing about five knots at the time. Then the winds veered to the southeast a little more and this change in our course put us directly in the path of the westerly bound cruise ship, which we had identified by that time as the Carnival Breeze. She was making 14 knots toward us and was about three miles away at that time, but looked very close in the night conditions.

I started the engine, altered our course to stay out of their way, and went behind them as they passed. I later found that the Breeze is one of largest cruise ships in the world, over a thousand feet long with fifteen passenger decks. At three in the morning, it was lit up with hundreds of lights of all colors, but I'm sure that nearly all of the passengers, and most of the crew, were sleeping soundly as they sped past us heading to Miami. This floating city slipped by quietly in the night, steaming to its morning destination. We were both cruising, but in greatly different vessels and styles. We were able to see them for over an hour as they became smaller and smaller on the horizon.

The next morning the sun greeted us with another spectacular sunrise. We watched the eastern sky begin to first glow a dim, muted orange and then become more intense with every minute. The sun then suddenly appeared above the horizon and welcomed us to a new day. We both remarked at the same time that this was a great way to start a day.



Just a typical gorgeous sunrise in the Gulf Stream

We arrived in Bimini the next morning at eleven o'clock, and settled into our slip on the southern tip of North Bimini. We explored the island and the nearby Alice Town. We stayed in Brown's Marina, which was one of the marinas that Ernest Hemingway frequented when he visited from Key West on one of his many fishing trips to this area. He even mentioned the marina by name in his novel "Islands in the Stream", which is commemorated on a plaque at the marina office. The color of the water was a beautiful aquamarine blue, and was so clear that we could see everything on the sandy bottom. Even the six foot bull shark searching for fish scraps from the fishermen.



Relaxing on the boat in Bimini

We stayed there for three days, and then left for Chub Key, on the other side of the Great Bahama Banks. Our sail over the Banks was in a port reach in 15-18 knots of wind. These conditions allowed us to cross the ninety five miles or so in about twelve hours, which was great progress. Many of the cruising guides recommend anchoring in the open, but shallow, waters of the Banks since it's unusual to sail across in one day, but we sailed all the way to Chub Key and anchored in the lee of that island after a long day of sailing. The water was never more than twenty five feet deep over the Banks, and was the clear aqua marine color that we had become accustomed to in Bimini. We even caught a small albacore tuna and a three foot barracuda while sailing across the Banks, but Sandra decided they should be pardoned and we returned both to the water.



Our barracuda just before his release

The next day we hoisted anchor and set our course for Nassau. As we approached, we first saw the power plant smoke stacks on the west end of the island, and gradually the island came into view. The island view is dominated by the new Baha Mar resort on the west end and the Atlantis resort complex on the east end, near where we would stay. Nassau is also home to one of the largest cruise ship docks in the Caribbean/Southern Atlantic with up to nine ships docking at a time. As we approached, we took photos of these huge ships as we sailed past on our way to our dock. The passengers were waving and probably commented on how "small" we were.



Passing the cruise ships as we entered Royal Nassau Harbor

In Nassau I reunited with a friend that I hadn't seen in over 45 years. My family hosted an exchange student from Switzerland when I was in high school. He (Bruno) spent his entire senior year of high school with my family in Missouri. He then returned to Switzerland to finish his university studies and then began a career in banking. He subsequently located to Nassau a few years later, and has been there ever since. We'd been communicating via email and phone for the previous few months and were looking forward to seeing each other after all these years. Bruno called us as he was watching us sail into the harbor, he met us at the dock as we tied up, and we enjoyed a wonderful reunion after all of these years.



A welcome toast with Bruno after arriving in Nassau

We settled into our slip that afternoon and enjoyed the calm relaxation that happens after the conclusion of each leg of our voyage. Happy to have safely completed another segment of our journey, we discussed what part of Nassau to explore first and some of the things we each wanted to see. Later that evening, we were treated to a great fireworks display from the Atlantis resort across the channel from our dock. It was nice of them to welcome us to Nassau with this display, we certainly didn't expect such an honor for "our" arrival.



The fireworks display across the channel from our dock

My long lost friend Bruno, and his wife Ena, have been wonderful hosts and guides to the Island of Nassau. One of the places that we've visited is the John Watlings distillery. This distillery is named after the pirate John Watling, who lived in the Bahamas in the late 1600's in Charles Town (which later became Nassau). The distillery produces three types of rum, based on the time the rum is aged. We had an enjoyable tour of the distillery and the hospitality center. Our tour guide, Bryant, was obviously trained as a guide by Chris Rock. He told jokes, was very animated in his presentation, and enjoyed his job as the rum ambassador (maybe rumbassador?). One of the tour aspects was a sniff test of the different aged rum types where you placed your nose in a hole on the side of a small barrel and inhaled the aromatic vapors until the guide (Bryant) told you that it you had inhaled enough. He sometimes waited a long time to give the signal.



The Rum in the Barrel Sniff Test with Bryant officiating

Another Nassau event that our friends took us to enjoy was a festival called Junkanoo. This Carnival-like festival is celebrated in the Bahamas during the holiday season. The main festival parades are just after Christmas, but we found that there was a preliminary festival parade in downtown Nassau while we were visiting. We made our way to a good viewing spot along the main street and waited for the festival parade to begin. A short while later, we heard in the distance the unmistakable thunder of dozens of large drums being played with tremendous volume. Even though the parade was several blocks away, we felt the percussion

of the drums in our spot. Bruno told us that the drums that we were hearing were actually full-size oil barrels with a goat skin stretched over one end and the other end open. The sound that twenty or so of these made was impressive.

We then saw the parade heading our direction. The first revelers in each group were a group of dancers, obviously enjoying dancing to the heavy beat of the oil barrel drums. Following them in each group was a number of individuals playing musical instruments ranging from trumpets, trombones and French horns, to cowbells, tambourines, and various ingenious combinations of items that made loud noise when beaten, blown into, or shaken. Following this part of each group was usually a row of tubas, and then came the oil barrel drums. These drums were last only in placement, certainly not in volume.

Bruno explained that the various groups in Nassau that participate in the Junkanoo parade compete in categories against each other and are judged for dancing choreography, musical ability, costume design and presentation, and of course loudness. He explained that the November festival is not as large as the festival in late December, and that they weren't wearing the costumes that would appear later. He also said that both the number of participants and spectators would increase enormously in the December parades. We had a great time watching the groups dance, play, and thunder past our location.



Above: The tuba section of one of the groups; Below: The oil barrel drum section of the same group

We're planning to stay here in Nassau for another week or so. The cold fronts that have been marching across the US recently have also been impacting the weather here. The temperatures have been significantly lowered with each passing front, such that the daily high following each front has only been 75 degrees or so. We've been surviving fine in these frigid temperatures; however these fronts have also brought very strong north winds for several days. These winds typically have been blowing from the north at 25-30 knots for a couple of days and then begin a gradual shift to the east, but even then have still been blowing at 20-30 knots. Bruno had indicated that these winds have been unusually strong for this time of year and that they typically are 10-15 knots out of the east.

We also recently discovered that a major sailboat racing regatta is scheduled to be held in Nassau during our stay. The Star Sailing League has held their annual season finale and championship in Nassau each year. This is an international professional racing circuit with such accomplished sailors as Augie Diaz, Mark Mendelblatt, George Szabo, Torben Grael, and Robert Scheidt competing, and Dennis Connor will be providing the color commentary. They will be racing in the Star sailboat and competing for \$200,000 in prize money. There are twenty teams that have qualified for the finals and over twenty Olympic medals have been won by the sailors that will be competing. I decided that this opportunity was too good to miss and, through my local friend Bruno, contacted the race manager at the Nassau Yacht Club to see if they needed any volunteers. I have been invited to assist on the race committee for this regatta and have been assigned to the leeward mark chase boat/rescue boat for the regatta, and hope to have some great photos for next month's article. I'm looking forward to watching some great racing in the anticipated blustery conditions on these overpowered racing sailboats.

We plan to enjoy Nassau until the regatta is complete, and also hope that the normal wind conditions appear by the end of this event. Then we'll head to one of the Exhuma Islands that are only about 45 miles away and sail behind the protection on the lee of these islands as we work our way south. We have on our plans to visit the swimming pigs of Staniel Key, the Thunderball Grotto (where they filmed portions of that movie), a couple of uninhabited keys that have been recommend by other sailors, and then stay a while in Georgetown, a popular harbor for sailing cruisers.

Just a reminder that you can follow us on our satellite tracker at:
<https://share.delorme.com/RayShull>

Notes from your GM

by Jackie Wheelless

Another year is coming to a close and it's time to reflect.

- RAIN!!!!!!!!!! 10 foot rise in Lake Travis!!!! – Thank you **Mother Nature!!**
- Red Eye Regatta – the name says it all! Or does it?? – Thank you **Keel Fleet!**
- Movie Nights every Friday night (January through March) – nautical movies and popcorn, who could resist?? – Thanks to **Ray Shull and Vic Manning!**
- **Jeanne Socrates** retelling a packed clubhouse about her 259 days at sea – solo, non-stop, unassisted circumnavigation of the globe - thank you **Brad Davis!**
- A very cold and rainy Opening Day Brunch and Ceremony turned out to be a warm “standing room only” event inside the Clubhouse – thank you **Social Committee!**
- An Opening Day Regatta was rescheduled due to “an epic cold front” – thank you **Mother Nature??**
- A new more modern website was launched – thank you **John Grzinich and Jen Schwan!**
- The February Work Party brought lots of eager workers out to a beautiful weather day and lots of shoveling, raking, sweeping and trimming – thank you **Doug Casey (B&G Commander), AYC members and staff!**
- Enthusiasm and excitement abounded during the 2 day Roadrunner Regatta – thank you **Stefan Froelich and Jeff Brock!**
- **Bob Woods** retired as GM and signed on as an AYC member
- The AYC office hours changed to 9:00 - 5:00 Wednesday through Sunday – CLOSED Monday and Tuesday
- April winds moved some boats around, but the docks held up without a problem!
- A woodpecker befriended our Clubhouse – **Tom Cunningham** did not befriend the woodpecker!
- Series Races were raced in all seasons, in all types of weather – rain, shine, cold or scalding – and in all or no level of wind! YUMMY meals followed – thank you **Social Committee!**
- Bunnies of all sizes, shapes and colors invaded the AYC office and grounds for the Annual Easter Laser Regatta – thank you **Fred Schroth!**
- World Class Tactician, **David Dellenbaugh**, did a presentation on the difference between upwind and downwind racing tactics and strategy. Members of all ages attended. – Thank you **Kate Noble** (Sailing Director)!
- Beer Can Races every Friday night (April through September) with the absolute BEST hamburger dinner served afterwards!!! – Thank you **Keel Fleet!!**
- Some Ensign sailors “took on some water” and called the AYC office requesting a pump because there was more water than a bailing bucket could handle! – Thank you for the laughs **Doug Laws, Elliott Bray and “a few others”**.
- **Danny Lien and Fred Ford** hosted the Chaparrals de Mar Regatta for the ten oldest skippers – aged 75 or older! What an inspiration!
- Sunfish and Laser races every Wednesday (May through September).
- The Spring Women’s Clinic had the luck of the draw from the weather Gods! – Thank you to all the **volunteers** who make this thrilling clinic such a success!!
- Turnback Canyon Regatta brought a little bit of the rain we’ve all been praying for and a whole lot of boats – 66 to be exact! There was, of course, lots of fantastic food and a dessert contest to add to the festivities – Thank you **Barry Bowden and Pat Manning!**
- A new Playscape came the Austin Yacht Club! – Thank you **AYC Fund and AYC Board of Directors!**
- Bookkeeping responsibilities were outsourced to a local CPA firm but if members have any questions, concerns or comments about their AYC accounts, please contact me at gm@austinyachtclub.net.
- Summer Camp and PBJ took over the summer schedule for the AYC staff, particularly **Sailing Director Kate Noble and Assistant Coach Kiel Killeen**. Lots of sunscreen, lemonade, sailing, sunscreen, sailing, sunscreen, lemonade.thank you to all the **Camp Counselors, CIT's and PBJ Coaches!**
- Independence Cup continued to bring a good crowd and an even better celebration! – Thank you to **JoAnn Welles!**
- The NEW Septic System work was completed without a single hiccup! AMAZING job done with the most EFFICIENT team – thank you **Tom Groll, C.V. Services, Tom Cunningham, Doug Casey, and all the other folks** who dug holes, planted sod or simply pointed and directed!
- The Endless Summer Sailing Series and the FJ Summer Series were new initiatives started this summer to increase the sailing opportunities at AYC. We look forward to these series continuing in 2015! – Thank you **Jeff Brock, Stefan Froelich, Bill Records, Bonnie and Keith Lackey and Debbie and Gray Rackley.**
- Let’s not forget the Cruising Clinic, Sail-4-Kids and Big Brothers/Big Sisters sailing events – thank you **Bill Records, Doug Laws and Mike Beuerlein.**
- AYC hosted a sunset wedding down at the Point – Congratulations **Mike Beuerlein and Brigitte Benquet!**
- The AYC Fund and the Social Committee pulled off a fun time and HUGE fundraiser with the 4th Annual Fleet Challenge and Pirate Party – thank you to **Scott Young, Pat Manning and every single one of you who generously donated to the AYC Fund!!**
- The AYC gate code began changing MONTHLY!! Please check the AYC website and/or your statement (emailed statements have the code in the top right corner, mailed statements have the code at the bottom of the statement) OR purchase a gate opener for \$15 (purchased in the AYC office).

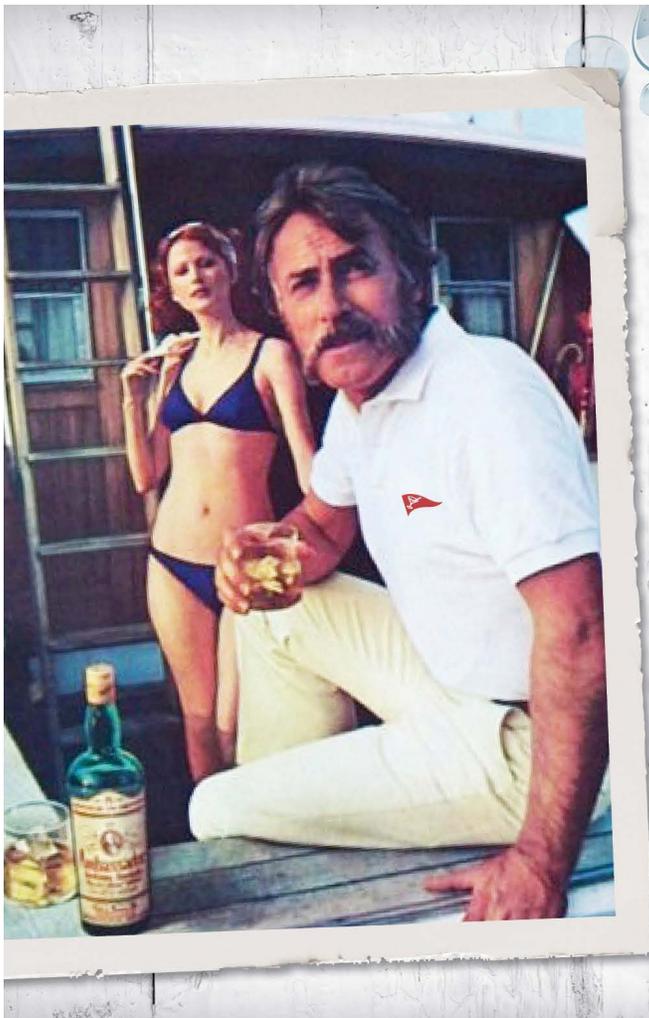
- The Centerboard Clinic had no wind but lots of participants! – Thank you **Mary Carew and Sailing Director Kate Noble!**
- AYC hosted the Central Regional Symposium to share ideas and concerns about sailing education and programming – thank you **Kate Noble!**
- The Fall Women's Clinic was another **HUGE SUCCESS** – thank you to **all the women who took the clinic and all the women who taught the clinic!** **A big thanks to all the men who cooked and served the meal afterwards!!**
- **Kate Noble** welcomed Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas to AYC and hosted brother-to-brother matches sailing aboard volunteer AYC member boats! – Thank you to all participants!!
- Governor's Cup Regatta – **WOW!!** No wind but lots of festivities including gourmet seated dinner, wait staff, a raffle and a silent auction. – Thank you **John Parker and your entire army** who helped with the event!
- **Travis County Sheriff's Office** is continuing their Close Patrol of the AYC grounds.
- I have gifts in the AYC office for the following members – **Keith and Bonnie Lackey, Christopher Dwight, Jorge Trevino and Jennifer Richardson**please come see me!

- An adolescent OWL befriended the men's bathhouse and it took the entire AYC staff a good 20 minutes to convince our WISE friend that he needed to be outside in the trees NOT inside in the shower! This brings us to the month of December and all the parties and shenanigans that we'll be hearing about in January.



- Anchors Aweigh to **Secretary Jennifer Schwan, Race Commander John Halter and Past Commodore Christopher Dwight** – it's been a true pleasure working with each of you!! Now I begin the task of "molding" the new AYC Board Directors – **Treasurer John Howard, Secretary Chris Ehlers and Race Commander Ed Taylor**. I truly look forward to working with each of these individuals along with the returning Board members.

Thank each and every one of you for always being so encouraging and supportive. The members of Austin Yacht Club **MAKE** the club and it is a genuine pleasure to be a part of such a class act!



It's not your father's polo.
More like your rowdy skirt chasin' uncle's.



tejasyachtclub.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore	John Morran
Past Commodore	Christopher Dwight
Vice Commodore	Barry Bowden
Secretary	Jen Schwan
Treasurer	Molly Lewis
Race Commander	John Halter
Buildings & Grounds Cdr.	Doug Casey
Harbor Commander	Wade Bingaman
Sail Training Commander	Eric Rochard

AYC STAFF

General Manager	Jackie Wheeless
Head Caretaker	Tom Cunningham
Sailing Director	Kate Noble

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 AND WEBSITE

www.austinyachtclub.net
office@austinyachtclub.net

NEWSLETTER

Susie McDonald, Editor
Email submissions by 1st of month to:
ghowiellc@aol.com

AYC BUSINESS HOURS

Wednesday - Sunday 9:00A - 5:00P
CLOSED MONDAY AND TUESDAY

Closed Club Holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1
Easter Sunday	April 24
Independence Day	July 4
Thanksgiving Day	November 24
Shopping Day	November 25
Christmas Day	December 25

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

buildings_grounds@austinyachtclub.net
race_commander@austinyachtclub.net
vice_commodore@austinyachtclub.net
membership@austinyachtclub.net
sail_training@austinyachtclub.net
commodore@austinyachtclub.net
secretary@austinyachtclub.net
treasurer@austinyachtclub.net
harbor_commander@austinyachtclub.net

AYC 2014 RACE CALENDAR

The 39th Annual

2015 Red-Eye Regatta

Thursday Jan 1, 2015 1:30 pm
An AYC Bloody-Mary Tradition brought
to you by the Keel Handicap Fleet



AYC 2014 NON-RACING EVENTS

Dec 31

New Year's Eve Party

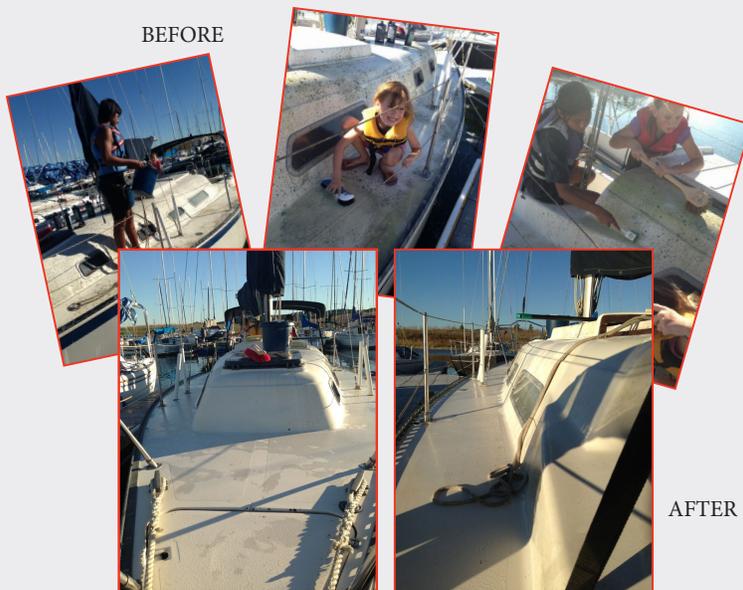
8:00p - 1:00a at the Clubhouse

HULL CLEANING

**Is Your Boat Dirty?
Are You Too Busy To Clean It?**

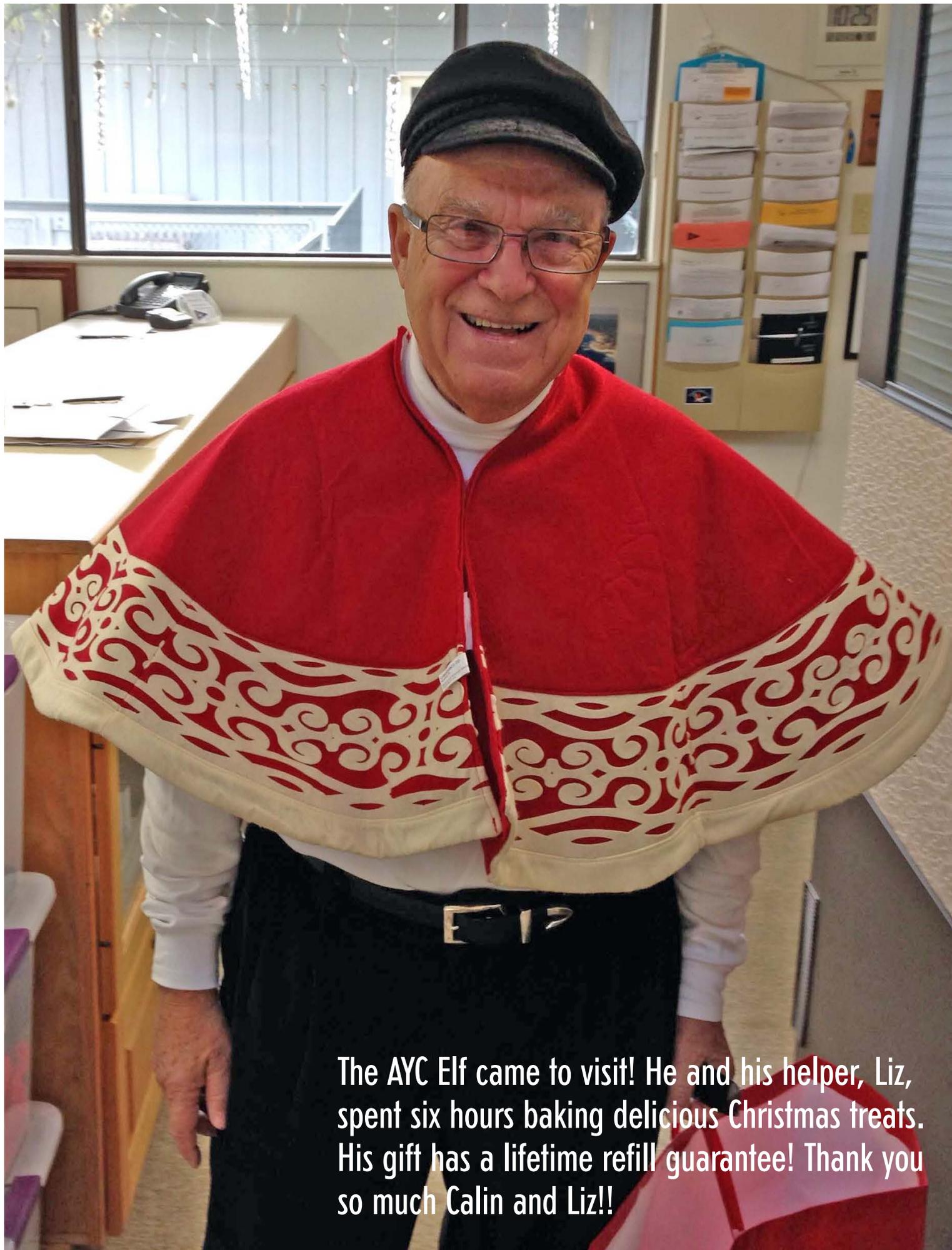
The Froelich and Brock Roadrunners are working to earn money to race in the upcoming Texas Sailing Association Circuit. We clean boat hulls, and scrub and polish decks.

BEFORE



AFTER

Please support us and contact us for a quote at
ethan@hasystems.com



The AYC Elf came to visit! He and his helper, Liz, spent six hours baking delicious Christmas treats. His gift has a lifetime refill guarantee! Thank you so much Calin and Liz!!

Austin Yacht Club
5906 Beacon Road
Austin, TX 78734-1428

