

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB  
**TELLTALE**

January / February 2016



# Red Eye Regatta Kicks Off the New Year



Photo Bruce McDonald

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## SAVE THE DATE

- Opti & Laser Racing Clinic Feb 6-7
- Super Bowl Party Feb 7
- Junior Pizza Party & Info Session Feb 12
- FB Series End of Series Dinner Feb 13
- John Bartlett Spinnaker Clinic Feb 20
- RC Training Feb 20
- ASA 101 Basic Keelboat Feb 20-21
- AYC Board Meeting Feb 25
- Building & Grounds Workday Feb 27
- Scott Young Start Clinic Mar 5
- Opening Day Ceremony & Brunch Mar 6
- Junior Opening Day Unregatta Mar 6
- Spring Series Begins (Sundays) Mar 6



Good Morning, Lake Travis *Photo Anne Morley*

## From The Commodore by Molly Lewis



2016 is in full gear! We have a lake full of water and the promise of many terrific sailing days ahead! As anyone who has been out to the Club in January can see, AYC members – from the juniors to the "ol' salts" – are already taking full advantage of the fact that this is such a great place to play and sail year round. If you haven't been out yet, you've missed some beautiful sailing days on Lake Travis. But don't worry – there are many more ahead and the 2016 calendar is filling up with opportunities to enjoy the Club. Highlights include:

**Series Racing!** Check out the racing calendar on page 5. Be on the lookout for more information from **Ed Taylor** about the All New Night Series planned for this summer.

**Regattas!** In addition to the Easter Laser, Roadrunner, Centerboard, Turnback, Independence Cup, Governor's Cup, and Wild Turkey Regattas, AYC is excited to be hosting J/24, J/22, and J/70 circuit stops as well as the Ensign Class Association Regional Finals.

**Sail Training! Bill Records, Kate Noble and the Sail Training Committee** have a great year of both junior and adult sail training mapped out, and the Roadrunner fleet is working hand-in-hand with them to host supplemental clinics and workshops for the growing group of junior sailors hitting the road to race in the TSA circuit – and beyond. **Harry Polly** is coordinating a full schedule of ASA101 Sailing Classes, and **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** is coordinating the free and completely-volunteer-run Sailing School for new sailors prior to each series race (see Jorge's article in this issue).

**Social Events!** Special thanks to **Susy Ortega and Pat Manning** for agreeing to be our Social Chairs for 2016. Take a look at Susy's article later in this TellTale. They've already been busy providing warm meals following Frostbite Series races and are planning other great social activities throughout the year, including, YES, a 2016 AYC LUAU! I also want to add a quick note that Opening Day is scheduled for March 6. Come join us for a catered brunch complete with Bloody Marys and Mimosas, followed by the Opening Day ceremony, and then Race #1 of the Spring Series and the 2nd Annual Opening Day Junior Un-Regatta for the kids.

Thanks to the **AYC staff, 2016 Board, fleet captains, and other volunteers** for planning and being willing to put on these great sailing and social events. In addition to all of the legwork associated with the events themselves, there is also a lot of other behind-the-scenes work that also needs to happen to make all of the fun possible – buildings and grounds maintenance and upgrades, dock replacements and repairs, sail training and race committee boats and supplies upkeep and replacement and so on. The 2016 Board has been busy already this year with these details. We have set an operating budget to ensure that adequate funds will be available to support ongoing maintenance and activity costs throughout the year. We have also worked closely with the Long Range Planning

Committee to establish a prioritized list of capital expenditures for 2016, investments that are needed to maintain and improve infrastructure, while also ensuring that we end the year with sufficient funds to be able to continue to support future improvements, upgrades and replacements.

Some of the key capital expenditure priorities planned for 2016 include:

**Completion of the stairways to the docks.** After a few starts and stops, and with input from numerous members and experts, the final design is a constant slope stairway, which can continue to be extended as the lake drops, with handrails on either side, and a bridge to the docks that will, effectively, slide up and down the stairway as the lake rises or falls.

**Replacement of nine board boat docks.** This has been a while in coming, as other priorities over the last couple of years (such as septic system repair), pushed this much-needed replacement project back. Thanks to the planning and leg-work in 2015, it is happening this year. **Joe Roddy** (Harbor Commander) is working with the Long Range Planning Committee to review and update the dock repair/replacement schedule for out-years.

**Electrical and lighting.** This includes repair of the Work Area electrical system, installation of lighting at the dock stairways and improvement of parking lot lighting.

**Bathhouse renovation.** **Chris Thompson** (Buildings and Grounds Commander) is heading up the plans for the Bathhouse upgrades, beginning with replacement of showers in both the men's and women's bathrooms and fixing the floor drainage issues. Plans also include replacement of toilet stalls and countertops, and, at a minimum, sandblasting and re-painting the walls.

**Replacement of Race Committee boat motor and Sail Training RIB motor.**

If you have input or questions, or want to help with any of the 2016 activities, from social events to racing or regattas to buildings and ground activities, please reach out to me or any Board Member. We welcome the input and help and are more than happy to talk through how we arrived at the priorities and plans (and hear other perspectives that maybe haven't been considered yet). I am already enjoying 2016 and am looking forward to a continued great year at the Club.

## SUPER BOWL PARTY

Come watch the game on a big screen TV at your clubhouse and cheer for your favorite team.

The Keel Fleet is providing barbecue and a keg of beer. Steve Frick will be cooking.

Bring your favorite side dish or game snack to share.

We'll have a Super Bowl Squares game with cash prizes awarded each quarter of the game.

Festivities start at 4:30pm with a game kickoff at 5:30.

FREE ADMISSION! For further information, contact [schlur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schlur@sbcglobal.net)

## Vice Commodore Report

by Wade Bingaman



I am making progress on my main job this year – organizing our four major regattas.

The main question currently is "Will Turnback go back?" To Lago Vista that is. Up until about three years ago Turnback was a unique event – a 22 mile race up the lake to Lago Vista on Saturday, and a 22 mile return on Sunday. We joined the Lago Vista community for their annual Bar-B-Q and party on Saturday evening. Recent low lake levels had made that format unworkable. However the lake is now up and so the question: "Will Turnback go back?"

I am communicating with the Lago Vista community to see if their plans for Memorial Day weekend would be compatible with our regatta. I am also taking a very informal poll to see how AYC members feel, both for and against the idea. It will obviously make for long races on a busy lake weekend and entail you either sleeping on your boat, at a local motel, or getting a ride home Saturday evening. In the past this regatta was very popular, not only with our members, but also many local non-members and other out of town boats. It was the biggest, most well attended regatta we held. However its popularity waned in recent years.

So let me know. Keep the recent lake basin racing and large party at the Club or go back to Lago Vista? I intend to make a decision within the next month, so if you have an opinion, let me know soon.

Also as to other regattas, **Stefan Froelich and Jeff Brock** have agreed to again be co-chairs of the Roadrunner Regatta. Also **Dane Ohe** has stepped forward to re-do his role as chair of the Centerboard Regatta. Both of these regattas got very good reviews last year, so I think they are in good hands again this year. However I do not yet have a volunteer for either Turnback or Governor's Cup. My experience is that while it is work, you get lots of help, and it turns out to be a really fun job. If you are interested, contact me.

## Harbor Report

by Joe Roddy



2016 is starting out with great new changes! We have a full harbor view that we have not been able to enjoy in the last five years. **Wade Bingaman** and crew have installed the new dock 5 to complete our dock replacement of the old pipe docks! Thanks for all your good work the last two years!

As the new Harbor Commander I appreciate all the help and input I have been getting from our members and I look forward to a great 2016 season.

As you might have seen, the new stairways have been poured and will be of help getting to the docks in a much safer and quicker way.

There are plans to replace board boat docks this year, as well as tune ups to a few other problems we have encountered. Stay tuned!

We have all been thinking about how great it is to have the lake up again. With that said, in this "El Nino" year, it is a possibility that the level could rise quickly in the event of Spring rains. I encourage you to please check your trailers to make sure your name is on the trailer and your tires are not flat! It could make the difference in getting your boat to a safer area in the event of an urgent move.

Please feel free to contact me if you see any issues with the docks, etc.

See you on the water ...

## Race Commander Report

by Ed Taylor



Hello Club members. For the second time in two years, and being the first month of the year as Race Commander, things are always busy around the Club with meetings, setting race and regatta dates and getting the first races of the year off and running. There are responsibilities, duties, training, Notice of Races and Sailing Instructions that need to be completed on schedule. Fleets have been awarded their Race Committee duties. And the 2016 Racing and Regatta Calendar and the Permanent Race Committee is approved by the Board. Check out the 2016 Caledar on the next page.

### Permanent Race Committee Nominations:

1. Karen Bogisch, Scoring Coordinator
2. Larry Ratliff
3. John Parker
4. Jim Castro
5. Elliot Bray
6. Bill Records
7. Chris Thompson
8. Vic Manning
9. Kurt Carson
10. Bob Mathison

Race Committee Training/Race Management Seminar will be conducted February 20. This will be a 1/2 day session from 8:30 to 12:30. Afterwards an on-the-water session may be held on the RC boat to review hands-on procedures to conducting a race.

The Red Eye Regatta was rescheduled for more favorable conditions that were both warmer and dry. 25 boats braved the great conditions for excellent racing. The Frostbite Series is under way and although I missed out on the first series race enjoying other racing duties to warmer waters (more on that later). We jumped in the second race with a short postponement and warm sunshine to a pleasant but light SE 4-10 knot wind day. Fleet participation has been great with up to 46 boats out on

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# 2016 RACING AND REGATTA CALENDAR

Please check the AYC website for any updates

Date	Series Race/Regatta/Circuit Stop
Fri 01-Jan	Red Eye Regatta KHF
Sat 16-Jan	Frostbite 1 - 1:30PM (A)
Sat 23-Jan	Frostbite 2 - 1:30PM (B)
Sat 30-Jan	Frostbite 3 - 1:30PM (Ensign)
Sat 06-Feb	Frostbite 4 - 1:30PM (J/24)
Sat 13-Feb	Frostbite 5 - 1:30PM End of Series (J/22)
Sun 06-Mar	Opening Day Brunch / 2nd Annual Junior Un-Regatta
	Spring Series 1 1:30PM (MH)
Sat 12-Mar	J/22 Circuit Stop
Sun 13-Mar	J/22 Circuit Stop
	Spring Series 2 1:30 PM (Cat 22 / SC21)
Sat 19-Mar	J/24 March Madness Circuit Stop
Sun 20-Mar	J/24 March Madness Circuit Stop
Sat 26-Mar	Easter Laser Regatta
Sun 27-Mar	Easter Laser Regatta
Sun 03-Apr	Spring Series 3 1:30 PM (C)
Sat 09-Apr	Roadrunner Regatta
Sun 10-Apr	Roadrunner Regatta
Sun 17-Apr	Spring Series 4 1:30 End of Series (B) / Chaparral del Mar Regatta
Sat 23-Apr	J/70 Circuit Stop
Sun 24-Apr	J/70 Circuit Stop
Fri 22- Apr	Beer Can Races Begin
Sun 01-May	Summer Series 1 1:30 PM Start (J/24)
Wed 04-May	Sunfish/Laser Races Begin
Sun 15-May	Summer Series 2 1:30 PM Start (A)
Sun 22-May	Summer Series 3 1:30 PM (Ensign)
Sat 28-May	Turnback Regatta
Sun 29-May	Turnback Regatta
Sun 05-Jun	Summer Series 4 1:30 PM (B)
Sun 12-Jun	Summer Series 5 1:30 End of Series (C)
Wed 15-Jun	Ensign Class Association Regional Finals
Thu 16-Jun	Ensign Class Association Regional Finals
Fri 17-Jun	Ensign Class Association Regional Finals
Sat 18-Jun	Ensign Class Association Regional Finals
Fri 24-Jun	Beer Can Race; Night Race #1 (TBD)
Sat 25-Jun	Dog Days 1 4:00 PM (Cat 22 / SC 21)
Sat 02-Jul	Independence Cup KHF
Sat 09-Jul	Dog Days 2 4:00 PM (J/22)
Sat 16-Jul	Dog Days 3 4:00 PM (MH)
Fri 22-Jul	Beer Can Race; Night Race #2 (TBD)
Sat 23-Jul	Dog Days 4 4:00 PM (C)
Sat 30-Jul	Dog Days 5 4:00 PM End of Series (A)
Fri 26-Aug	Beer Can Race; Night Race #3 (EOS) (TBD)
Sun 11-Sep	Late Summer 1 1:30 PM (B)
Fri 16-Sep	Beer Can Races End
Sat 17-Sep	Centerboard Regatta
Sun 18-Sep	Centerboard Regatta
Sun 25-Sep	Late Summer 2 1:30 PM (J/24)
Wed 28-Sep	Sunfish/Laser Races End
Sun 02-Oct	Late Summer 3 1:30 PM (Cat 22/ SC 21)
Sun 09-Oct	Late Summer 4 1:30 PM End of Series (Ensign)
Sun 23-Oct	Fall Series 1 1:30 PM (J/22)
Sun 30-Oct	Fall Series 2 1:30 PM (A)
Sat 05-Nov	Governors Cup Regatta
Sun 06-Nov	Governors Cup Regatta
Sun 13-Nov	Fall Series 3 1:30 PM (C)
Sun 20-Nov	Fall Series 4 1:30PM End of Series (MH)
Sat 26-Nov	Wild Turkey Regatta (KHF)

the course. There will be five other series during the year if you haven't made the Frostbite Series. The series awards will be different this year and can't wait to hand them out to all the class winners.

Date	Series Race/Regatta/ Event	RC Duty
Sat 16-Jan	Frostbite 1 - 1:30PM start	A
Sat 23-Jan	Frostbite 2 - 1:30PM	B
Sat 30-Jan	Frostbite 3 - 1:30PM	Ensign
Sat 06-Feb	Frostbite 4 - 1:30PM	J/24
Sat 13-Feb	Frostbite 5 - 1:30PM End of Series	J/22

After some discrepancies were found on the Frostbite Series Course Card, an updated 2016 version Course Card is published. Please make sure you have the latest Course Card to avoid any discrepancies out on the water.

By the time the upcoming Spring Series starts, we should have our eight tetrahedrons race marks repaired and ready to go. New radios and flags along with paddles and lines have been purchased by the Club.

## 2016 Fort Lauderdale – Key West Race

Our Mark Mills designed King 40 hit the line with speed on starboard knowing we would go for a short jibe to the beach in more favorable current. The bigger boats in IRC including the Mini Maxi and TP 52 did a jibe-set at the coveted pin end. Riding the edge of a frontal system, that came in earlier than expected, the faster boats went out to the ocean and got the favorable shift. Continuous shifts of up to 90 degrees, and velocity increases from 8 to 22 knots were the norm. As we made our way south and west to Key West the temperatures dropped and the rain showers started making for a night for not an easy ride around the bend. Some gains and losses made trying to position Hot Ticket on the correct side of the shifts and playing the edge of the reef staying out of the strongest north bound current reflected in the results. Multiple jibes with the A2 Runner and down shifting to the A3 Reacher and then finally the Code Zero as we got headed with the maximum wind increases of the night. And then to start all over again jibing the Runner in the lower wind speeds as the dark clouds rolled by. Our place was not as good as past years but, 6th in a class of 10 boats and a fleet of 41 boats. We pulled the boat at Stock Island – Key West in preparation for the Cuba Race Week Regatta starting in Key West and racing to Varadero and Havana and back to Key West next week.

## Secretary Report

by Annie Lancaster



This month I have been busy getting my bearings as to what the AYC secretary responsibilities are and how to do them. I appreciate all the direction I have gotten from **Chris Ehlers and Jackie**. This month I got a new laptop so I can keep up with AYC paperwork. Hopefully the Board meeting agendas will be posted before the meetings so all can see what is planned to be discussed. There are plans for another directory this year so that we can keep your information accurate and complete.

Happy Sailing!

## Building and Grounds Report

by Chris Thompson



As the new B&G Commander I am very excited to follow **Doug Casey's** lead to continue to improve the Club's infrastructure above the waterline. My background in energy engineering, project management and building commissioning give me a good handle on facility management and integrating with the various trades and stakeholders involved in facility operations or managing any project.

We are already off to a great start with a leaking water heater over the New Year's weekend! Thanks to **Tom and Jackie** for getting on this before too much damage could be done. We should have a new tankless, energy efficient unit in cabin 4-5 by the time this is published.

I'm getting my feet on the ground (literally) and getting a committee rounded up to assist in this year's projects. The list seems to expand every time I sit down to do the budget! Some of the things I hope to accomplish are:

- Our Spring Work Day is scheduled for February 27. We will be getting things ready for Opening Day. The fallback date will be the following Saturday if the weather does not cooperate.
- Finish a few ongoing or carryover projects such as the water lines to the cabins, the (long awaited) bath house remodel. The work area electric panel upgrade will get some attention now that our docks and harbor are in good shape.
- Improving the lighting in the parking areas and around the clubhouse are projects that can be implemented quickly, with LED/Solar systems looking very favorable.
- Renovating the GM's office to give **Jackie, Kate and Tom** a better and more efficient workspace.
- RV parking – creating at least three designated spots with 30/50 amp power and water. These will be rentable for a small fee.

- Identifying and ranking capital projects for the long range plan for future planning and budgeting.

Continuing to provide a safe and well run facility is my goal as this year's B & G commander. We are all stewards of the Club so if you see a situation that might be questionable, please bring it to mine, Jackie's or Tom's attention.

It is looking like a cool and wet forecast for the next few months so make sure your equipment in the storage areas around the Club is in order in case the drought pendulum swings to the flood zone, and we have to move to higher ground!

## Sail Training Report

by Bill Records



As Yogi Berra once said, "This is deja vu all over again". I am back as Sail Training Commander for 2016 and am looking forward to a good year. The junior program has become a well-oiled machine due to the hard work of Sailing Director **Kate Noble** and Coach **Coleman Terrell** as well as the tireless dedication of the **Roadrunner parents**. Therefore the emphasis this year will be on adult sail training.

We will offer more opportunities for adults to learn to sail, learn how to crew, and develop racing techniques and tactics. The significant success of the FJ coached classes in 2015 has convinced us to expand that program this year. Also there will be two, maybe three learn-to-sail (and crew) keel clinics. From several comments made by members, we will make some changes to the **Scott Young Start and Tactics** clinic. Instead of limiting it to one or two classes of boats, the clinic will be open to all boats, including centerboard boats. Yes, Optis are welcome! We will continue to offer two Women's Clinics, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. And we will also offer the popular Cruise Clinic.

We are also looking into having some guest speaker events, dealing with topics such as maintenance and boat construction.

For those who are interested in teaching, we will offer US Sailing, Level 1 certification course in April, taught by **Steve Gay**. I took the course from Steve and it was one of the most rewarding experiences that I've ever had. See information on the following page.

**Harry Polly** has been working very hard in expanding ASA certification courses and will coordinate the ASA program this year. If you are considering chartering and don't have ASA certification, you should contact Harry. Unlike in the past, charter companies now require some form of certification before they trust you with their boats.

The **John Bartlett** Spinnaker Clinic is back by popular demand and will be held on Feb. 20. (Refer to flyer in this edition of Telltale) John has designed and fabricated sails for a number of years, winning numerous championships in several classes. Those of us who know John, realize

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what a good teacher he is and an expert in the art of sail trim.

Bring your boats and crew, if you don't have a boat, we will put you on one.

The second clinic of the year will be The Scott Young Start and Tactics Clinic on March 5. Scott is a world class sailor who has won many championships, too numerous to name here! This year, the clinic will be open to both keel and centerboard boats. With the best of the racing season ahead, this should not be missed.

As for the junior program, we plan on making improvements to the Summer camps and PB&J, and finding ways to improve the curriculum.

There is one more thing that I would like to mention. In the last few years the membership as a whole has recognized the importance of sailing education at AYC and has strongly supported it. Thanks for making the Club a better place to be!



2016 Sail Training Committee



## SCOTT YOUNG START CLINIC MARCH 5, 2016 REGISTER ONLINE!



### COMING SOON!

#### STEVE GAY US SAILING LEVEL 1 INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION COURSE, APRIL 23-24 AND APRIL 30-MAY 1

Interested in teaching sailing? The US Sailing Level 1 instructor course is designed to provide sailing instructors with information on how to teach beginning level sailors more safely, effectively, and creatively. Topics covered in the course include: classroom and on-the-water teaching techniques, risk management, safety issues, lesson planning, creative activities, ethical concerns, and sports physiology and psychology.

#### COURSE PREREQUISITES:

- Candidate must have reached their 16th birthday within the calendar year that the course is being held in. Students under 18 years of age who complete the course will be designated as a Sailing Assistant until their 18th birthday.
- Sailing experience in small boats.
- Current US Sailing Individual Membership.
- Experience operating a safety boat. This skill will not be taught at the course. Instructor Candidates lacking adequate experience should either seek opportunities for practice or attend a US Sailing Safe Powerboat Handling Course.
- Ability to swim 50 yards both with and without PFD.
- National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Safe Boating certification.
- Ability to exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal skills.

#### COURSE FEES:

\$370 if received more than four (4) weeks prior to course start date

\$390 if received within four (4) weeks of course start date

\$440 if received within one (1) week of course start date

## Notes from Your GM by Jackie Wheless



### Happy, Happy New Year!!!

2016 promises to be yet another eventful year for AYC!!! Getting to know new Board members (**Annie Lancaster, Joe Roddy, Bill Records and Chris Thompson**) and forging ahead with the returning Board members (**Molly Lewis, Barry Bowden, Wade Bingaman and John Howard**) is always an exciting adventure. I look forward to another productive year assisting the Board and all of the AYC members.

The lake is crawling up to the FULL mark for the first time since I've been at AYC! It's very exciting and also worrisome that Mother Nature can strike havoc at any moment ... are we prepared??

Boat storage is creeping up to the full mark as well. There are approximately 10 vacant dry storage spaces available at this time. I certainly don't mean to nag members or to charge for slips you don't feel you owe for; however, please remember that all boats stored in dry storage must stay within their assigned space (not extending into the adjacent space), boats should not be parked on the grass or extend out into the drive beyond one trailer length. If more than one boat is stored in the dry storage area and exceeds the requirements, a second space must be requested.

It's NEVER TOO SOON to come check the condition of your property.

- Are you encroaching into another space?
- Is your name painted on your trailer?
- Are your boat and trailer ready if they need to be moved at a moment's notice?
- Do you have trash and/or loose items in and/or around your assigned space?
- Check your trailer – tires, bearings and axles should be in good condition. Too often a flat tire, frozen bearings or a broken axle prevents a boat from being safely and quickly moved.
- Make sure tire locks and/or ball locks are removed from your tires/trailer hitch.

In case of emergency, necessary steps may be taken in the owner's interest, without notification, and he/she shall have no recourse against the Austin Yacht Club, its officers, employees, or anyone taking such emergency action. If we can move your boat and/or trailer, we will, if not we'll move on to the next moveable one.

Please help us keep the Work Area within the Clean Marina Guidelines by not leaving behind chemicals, gas cans, bad fuel, etc. If you're not sure how to dispose of these items, "What Do I Do With ..." is a great tool on the City of Austin website that should help you figure out how to recycle just about anything! You can find more information about hazardous waste, including the list of which household hazardous waste items are accepted and what items are not accepted, at <http://www.austintexas.gov/dropoff>. If you have any questions you can call the Travis County coordinator at (512) 854-4496.

# WELCOME FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS!



Top Left: Jeff Wigzell  
Top Right: Abigail Sage  
Bottom Right: Gillian Corcoran



## Sailing Director Report by Kate Noble



It seems as though our "offseason" gets shorter and shorter every year! I've kept busy this winter, brainstorming and planning. We have some great things on the horizon for Sail Training in 2016! **Bill Records** was Sail Training Commander in 2011 when I first came on board as a coach so I am excited to have him back at the helm and for the opportunity to work together once again!

In 2016, we hope to offer more training opportunities for adults. We are offering two advanced clinics this Spring to get y'all ready for the Spring Series – the **Spinnaker Clinic** with **John Bartlett** February 20 and the **Start Clinic** with **Scott Young** March 5. Registration for both events is available on our website!

Our 2016 Junior Sailing Program kicks off March 5, Opening Day weekend. We are expanding our program by rolling out a new Summer Season to give our racers opportunities to continue their training in June and July while beginner-level summer programs are in session. Our Junior Sailing Program will also be available for the first time to non-members. Opening the program to non-members at a higher rate will be a great opportunity for us to attract new sailors and build revenue. Join **Coach Coleman** and me on Friday,

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February 12 for a Junior Sailing Info Session & Pizza Party to learn more about what's to come in 2016! Registration will be available in mid-February.

Believe it or not, summer preparations are already underway! We look forward to offering six weeks of Junior Sailing Camp and four sessions of our PB&J Summer Sailing Series in 2016. See information for both programs in this edition of the Telltale! Registration is available through our website beginning February 1. Please note that members will need to use the coupon code **AYC2016** to obtain member pricing.

We are currently looking for seasonal instructors to staff our 2016 Junior Sailing Camp. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the AYC team this summer, please contact me!

If you have a suggestion for a clinic or training program you'd like to see next year, please let me know! You can reach me at [kate@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:kate@austinyachtclub.net), (512) 266-1336, or swing by the office. I welcome your feedback and ideas on how Sail Training can better serve the membership in 2016.

### Junior Racing News

Our Roadrunners have been competing across the country all Winter long. Three AYC sailors traveled to Coral Reef Yacht Club in Miami December 27-30 for the Orange Bowl Regatta. Congrats to Laser Radial sailors **Spencer LeGrande**, who placed 25 in the 101 boat fleet, and to Alexandra Mares who placed 42. Also congratulations to Opti sailor Tony Slowik, who not only placed 49 overall out of 225 RWB fleet boats but who also won three of the raffle prizes – a backpack with a bunch of goodies inside, an Olympic Happy sail and the grand prize – a brand new Zim Opti!

Nine AYC Opti sailors competed at USODA Team Race Midwinters at Lakewood January 16-18. Congrats to Team AYC Blue (**Lucy Brock, James Brock, Ethan Froelich, Julius Heitkoetter**), AYC Orange (**Nicholas Carew, Fiona Froelich, Eric Jayawant, Lucas Tenreiro**) and AYC sailor **Tony Slowik** who competed as part of Team Lakewood Blue! For more on Team Race Midwinters, check out the contributing article from the Roadrunner Fleet.



Photo *Kate Noble*

Tony Slowik competing at the Team Race Midwinters

**Tony Slowik** will travel to Spain next month for his second international Opti regatta, the XXVII International Vila de Palamós Optimist Trophy, February 18-21! AYC wishes Tony and his Team USA teammates and coaches the best of luck!

## Social Committee Report by Susy Ortega



Hello! My name is Susy Ortega and this year I'll be heading the Social Committee along with the fabulous **Pat Manning**. I am 25 years old and joined AYC a year ago after our dad "accidentally" bought a Lancer 38 on Ebay. I didn't stand a chance, I was hooked from our first sailing adventure. Since then I have been getting acquainted with the warm waters of Lake Travis. You can typically find me kayaking around the Club's waters, sailing on the weekends, and more recently in the clubhouse cooking with Pat!

The Social Committee has a full calendar this year. Our plans include a SuperBowl Party, a luau in October and lots of great meals! You can usually find us cooking up a storm before the races and help is always welcome. We are on the lookout for fresh faces to help us cook anything from Pat's homemade cornbread to Thai Shrimp Soup. Experience is not a factor! In fact, if you are interested in learning a few culinary skills we are your girls! You can send us an email at [soc.comm.ayc@gmail.com](mailto:soc.comm.ayc@gmail.com) and we'll get you situated.

Here are some meals worthy of excitement for the following events:

### Frostbite #4, February 6

We are serving a Warm Thai Shrimp Soup, Bismati Rice and a healthy mix of Salad Greens

### Frostbite EOS, February 13

**Constance Heitkoetter** and the Roadrunners are preparing a special Valentine's day meal that will make you fall in love! Tomato Basil Soup, Fire Roasted Pork Tenderloin, Handmade Spätzle, Pork Roast Gravy, Salad Greens and Scrumptious Sweets Treats ... Yum!

We look forward to seeing you in the kitchen!

## REMINDER

In accordance with the Austin Yacht Club House Rule (HOUSE RULES – General – #4): **No firearms or fireworks of any kind shall be allowed on AYC grounds.**

Note that this policy remains in effect despite the new changes to Texas state law that now permits licensed individuals to openly carry handguns.

The required Texas State Law signs will be displayed at the entry gate.

Questions concerning this policy may be directed to the General Manager or Commodore:

[GM@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:GM@austinyachtclub.net)  
[Commodore@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:Commodore@austinyachtclub.net)

Thank you for your cooperation.

# Roadrunner Holiday Party



*Here comes Santa!*



Photos by Bill Records



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# New Year's Eve Party



Photos by Bruce McDonald



*continued next page*



# Red Eye Regatta

by Jim Johnstone



AYC has a lot of traditions and one of them is to race on New Year's Day. This is the one time we do the partying first (New Year's Eve party – it was a blast) and then race at the Red Eye where we traditionally award the **Hap McCollum trophy** for the fastest monohull spinnaker boat on corrected time and now, thanks to **Jim Casto**, the **"Red" I trophy** for the fastest multihull on corrected time.

Santa Claus granted my wish for good wind and no sleet for the first racing event of 2016. January 1 showed us overcast skies with brisk temperatures holding at about 45 degrees, with winds out of the northeast at 13-15 with the usual gusts and shifts. We had 25 boats participating in this regatta grouped into four divisions: Multihulls, with three trimarans and one cat; A fleet with four J80s and **Tom Romberg's** J29; B fleet with the J/22s and J/24s plus the Capri 25 of **John Maddalozzo**; and a large C fleet with an eclectic mix of classic boats including Ensigns, Pearson 26s, Columbia 26 and a Ranger 23.

Breakfast tacos, mimosas and Bloody Marys (thanks **John Bartlett and Bartlett Sails**) beside a cozy fire got competitors warmed up for the race during registration. After a briefing by the regatta organizers it was out the door and into the cold for the first race of the New Year.

**John Thurston** made the regatta interesting by awarding trophies for last place and several skippers took up the challenge, competing vigorously for this honor. Given the short courses, the fleets were tightly packed – all boats in all fleets finished within 24 minutes of each other and no fleet had a spread of more than 12 minutes between first and last boats, keeping competition close.



Jim Casto, Multihull and Red I Trophy Winner



Claude Welles, J/80 and McCollum Cup Winner



Stewart Juengst, B Fleet Winner



George Dahmen, C Fleet Winner

Competitors enjoyed the short format (1 to 2 hour) racing set up by **Vic Manning** and his race committee. When they finished, **Pat Manning and Kathy Johnstone** welcomed them back to the Club house with a hearty hot tamale soup, beef brisket and pork sandwiches (thanks to **Steve and Carole Frick** and the New Year's Eve party crew), hot chocolate and hot buttered rum supplied by the **Mannings**, always a regatta favorite.

## The Winners by Division

**Multihull:** **Jim Casto** Nacra 5.5  
(also winning the Red I Trophy)

**A fleet:** **Claude Welles** (J/80)  
(also winning the McCollum Cup)

**B Fleet:** **Stewart Juengst** (J/24)

**C Fleet:** **George Dahmen** (Ensign)

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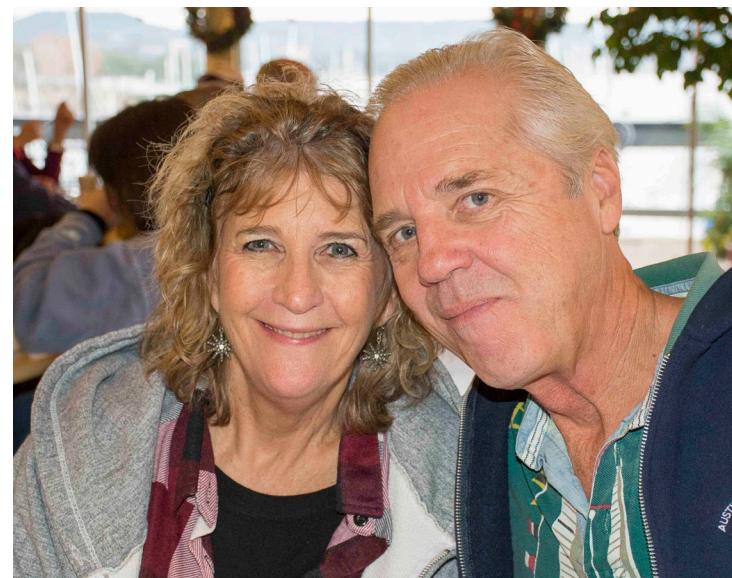
## Photos by Jim Johnstone

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# Red Eye Regatta



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**Photos by Jim Johnstone**

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# Red Eye Regatta



Photos by Bruce McDonald

*continued next page*





# Spinnaker Clinic

*With John Bartlett of Bartlett Sails*

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00-5:00 pm

**COST:** \$50 per boat / \$30 per individual\*

\*Bring your own boat and your crew OR we will place individuals aboard volunteer boats!

Join John Bartlett, sail maker and winner of the 1989 US Men's Sailing Championship, the J/24 gold medal at the 1995 Pan Am American Games, the Masters Division at the 2014 Moth Nationals, and many more trophies.

The clinic includes:

- A chalk talk on spinnaker design, rigging, and general sail trim
- On the water instruction including sets, jibes, take downs, and mark roundings
- Refreshments and follow up talk

For more information, visit our website or contact AYC Sailing Director Kate Noble at (512) 266-1336 or AYC Sail Training Commander Bill Records at (512) 913-4989

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [AUSTINYACHTCLUB.NET](http://AUSTINYACHTCLUB.NET)**

# The AYC "Racing School"

by Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás



## Where did all the sailboats go?

I have heard many a tall tale of things that allegedly happened during "*The Heyday of Sailing*" – and I don't mean the Golden Age of merchant sailing ships – I mean the days when we had 300+ boats participating in the Turnback Canyon Regatta and the days when sailboat races garnered enough attention that it afforded us with the opportunity of throwing

the Texas Governor into the AYC swimming pool ... Ah, yes ... many a wild story has been told ... and I have often wondered where did all the sailboats go?

## Theories abound

There is no doubt that sailing has declined in popularity compared to the heyday of the 70s and 80s. This is a fact, and theories abound as to what has caused the decline. Some say it was video games, or powerboats, or personal water craft, or alien abductions, or the economy, or dual income families, or globalization, etc., etc. My personal theory is that sailing has declined in popularity because it is no longer "new" and because it became commonplace. Let's turn the question around ... Instead of asking why has sailing declined in popularity, let's ask why did sailing become so popular in the 70s and 80s? As we know, before the 1950s only the super wealthy could afford a sailing "yacht". If they had a "yacht" then chances are the yacht would be custom made and it would cost a lot more than an average family could ever afford. Wooden sailing dinghies were still popular, but it was the introduction of fiberglass boats that really caused an explosion in the popularity of sailing. All of a sudden sailing was "new". More accurately, sailing was "newly" affordable to the average family. Back in the 60s, 70s and 80s there was so much "buzz" about sailing that you could not open a magazine without seeing ads for sailboats ... Friends saw their friends sailing, and they wanted to be a part of it too. *National Geographic Magazine* ran a series of articles on Robin Lee Graham, the teenager who sailed alone around the world. *Time Magazine* ran articles about families living on sailboats and sailing around the world and *Time* told us that it was OK to go cruising with school-aged children because they could take the same correspondence courses as diplomats ... There was "buzz" in the media surrounding sailing ... The more sailboats were sold, the more other people became interested. Back in the 60s, 70s and 80s we had a positive feedback loop.

## Hypothesis

Sailing has decreased in popularity for many reasons but my hypothesis is that part of the reason is because the "buzz" factor is gone. Sailing is no longer "new". The once "fantastic" stories of teenagers and families sailing around the world are not newsworthy anymore (unless they need to be rescued). Sailing has become commonplace. Back during the heyday, friends were teaching friends how to sail and they were hanging out on sailboats because it was fun. But slowly and gradually the "new" factor wore off, there were fewer ads on magazines, and fewer people

were sailing, and fewer people became introduced to the sport.

## Question

But sailing is just as fun today as it was 30 years ago ... Why aren't new people joining the sport? Our hypothesis is that people are not sailing because they don't know that sailing is available. Sailing is no longer "new" and therefore we don't have the associated media "buzz" surrounding sailing. But fortunately there is hope! And the reason there is hope is because sailing is always "new" to SOMEBODY!!! If friends see friends sailing, they will want to join too! And the more people go sailing, the more other people will want to go sailing too! QUESTION: "– What would happen if a bunch of friends got together, went sailing just for fun, and invited complete beginners to join along, just for fun?"

## Answer

It was in the hopes of answering this question that we started the AYC "Racing School" a couple of years ago. And the answer is exactly what you would expect and it is not really earth-shattering at all ... ANSWER: "– If you make sailing available, people will sail!" Sailing is just as much fun today as it ever was.

## Example

Last week we had one of our "Racing School" classes before the Frostbite Series #2. We had six boats go out for class and we had 31 participants. Amongst the students who signed up we had a young couple from Austin. They had never set foot on a sailboat before. At the end of class they were so excited about sailing that they signed up to all remaining classes for the rest of the Frostbite Series and they were asking me if they could join AYC ... And that was after only one class!!!

## What is "Racing School"?

What is the AYC "Racing School" you may ask? Well, I'm glad you asked! :-) See below for "The Idea" behind racing school and to see how you can get involved!

## The "Idea"

The idea behind the racing school is very simple: during a typical race day at AYC we launch the boats at 12:30 pm and we go racing at 1:30 pm, right? The idea for "Racing School" is to launch the boats earlier (at 10:00 am) and teach students how to sail prior to the AYC series races. Since we are launching the boats anyway, we might as well get to the yacht club a couple of hours earlier and teach people how to sail :-) The "Racing School" concept was started a couple of years ago and lots of AYC skippers have been helping out since then! And you can help too if you want!

The beauty of the "Racing School" idea is that those of us who hate mowing the lawn will have a great excuse to go to the Yacht Club earlier and avoid those pesky household chores :-) Errr ... Did I say that out loud, or did I just type it? ;-) What I meant to say is that the beauty of this idea is that it gives us 2+ hours where we can teach students how to sail (and how to race) without throwing them into the confusion which can ensue during an actual race on their first day.

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## How does it work?

The idea is for skippers who want to participate to show up at 10:00am on the day of the race (instead of 12:30pm)... and then we can teach students how to sail from 10:00am to 12:30pm. All we need is one skipper and one experienced crew (as instructors), and we can have two or three students on board each boat. This gives 2+ hours of on-the-water instruction where new sailors can learn how to sail and how to race. At 12:30pm the boats come back to the dock and that is the end of the class. At this point the skippers typically swap the students for their "regular" crew and they go back out for the "real" race ... and if some of the AYC boats don't have enough crew, then the students are welcome to go out again and participate in the real race if they want ...

### Win-win Situation :-)

We think it is a win-win situation. The "regular" crew shows up at 12:30pm and they are happy because the boat is already launched and rigged :-). The students are happy because they got two hours of personal training ... The instructors are happy because they got to sail an extra two hours starting at 10:00am instead of mowing the lawn :-). And other skippers at AYC are happy because now there is a pool of "students" who are learning how to sail and can fill in when boats need extra crew.

### The "Racing School" features

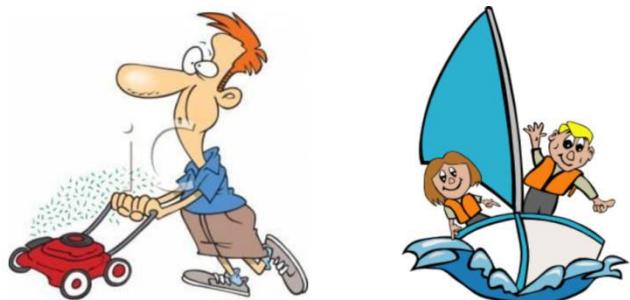
Since I wanted to use "bullets" on this article (and since I wanted to use the word "salient" :-)) here are the salient features of the racing school concept:

- Introduce new people to sailing ...
- ... and introduce them to the sport of sailboat racing!
- Allow students to progress at their own rate, improving their skills over time.
- Provide an avenue for beginners to learn everything they need to learn in order to buy a boat and start sailing!!!
- Allow skippers who may not have a full team yet to train new crew members and invite them to join the team.
- Allow regular crew members to learn different positions (for example it is every foredeck's fantasy to drive the boat while the skipper tries to figure out the pointy end. :-)
- Provide a pool of potential new crew members for the benefit of other AYC skippers who may need extra crew.
- Provide an avenue for overall improvement for all AYC sailors by providing a format during which we can ride on different boats (I want to catch a ride on Tribology and the other fast tri's!!) and we can all share our collective knowledge ... we can all learn from each other, and this "cross-pollination" will make us all better sailors and strengthen the camaraderie in our Club! :-)

### OK, I'm sold! How can I help? ;-)

Great! I am glad you are still reading :-) Can you volunteer as an instructor? We typically have a waiting list of students hoping to catch a ride and we need both boat owners and assistant instructors. It's really a simple choice

when you think about it: "– Do you want to mow the lawn in the morning, or do you want to come out to the Club early and go sailing?"



*"—I could mow the lawn... or I could go sailing!"*

If you love sailing, and if you enjoy teaching people how to sail (and if you promise not to yell at students if they wrap the jib sheet the wrong way around the winch), then have I got a deal for you!!! We may just have a spot for you as a volunteer instructor! :-)

### OK, I'm sold! How do I sign up as an instructor? :-)

Thanks for asking! :-) We need both boat owners and assistant instructors. For each boat we like to have two instructors on board: the boat owner (skipper) and another experienced sailor on board as an assistant instructor (i.e. somebody who knows what "fend-off" means). If you would like to volunteer, please send me an email to: [jorgemdn@gmail.com](mailto:jorgemdn@gmail.com).

We currently have lots of volunteer instructors from AYC fleets, including:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| • Capri 25       | • Catalina 22  |
| • Corsair 31     | • Ensign       |
| • F25C           | • J/22         |
| • J/24           | • J/29         |
| • Pearson 26     | • Pearson 31   |
| • San Juan 28    | • San Juan 7.7 |
| • South Coast 21 |                |

If you have a boat, please let me know the type of boat, the boat name, and how many students you would like to take. For example we typically assign two students for a Catalina 22, J/22, or South Coast 21, we typically assign three or four students for a J/24, and Ray Shull used to take nine students when he had his J/29. :-)

### OK, I'm an instructor, now what? :-)

By Wednesday prior to the race you will receive an email asking whether you are available as an instructor for the following weekend. You don't have to participate every week ... we realize that sometimes at 10:00am you will have to mow the lawn and you may not be available to participate :-) Therefore, all you need to do is reply Yes or No when you get the email ... it is that simple! After we get replies from all the instructors, we can then calculate how many spots we have available for students. We also ask that students send an email by the Wednesday prior to the class they want to attend. This allows us to accommodate students according to the number of boats we have available.

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## Typical "Racing School" Session

During a typical "Racing School" session you will show up at the AYC clubhouse at 10:00am and you will meet your students. You can then go to your boat and start sailing! Some students will be more advanced than others because not all students will be able to attend all classes so it is entirely up to you how you structure your time on the water. If you have complete beginners on board you can teach students the basics, like the points of sail, etc., or you can let the more advanced students take the helm if conditions are appropriate, etc. Instructors typically stay out for about two hours and come back to the docks around 12:30pm. This gives ample time to get ready for the AYC race in the afternoon.

## Promoting the sport of sailing

We think the "Racing School" concept can help bring new people into the sport of sailing. If you would like to help, please let me know. I tell my friends at AYC that there must be at least one thousand people in Austin who WANT to join AYC ... They WANT to buy a sailboat and they WANT to go sailing every weekend ... they just don't KNOW it yet! :-) All we have to do is find them!

## Roadrunner Fleet Update by Stefan Froelich



### Team Race Midwinter Championship

The Team Race Midwinter Championship at Lakewood Yacht Club in Houston was the largest ever with 32 teams from all over the nation



in three different start lines. AYC brought two teams and gave it their best, sailing approximately 15 races each through rain, gust, calm, and current over the three-day event. This four-on-four exciting format allowed for strategic aggressiveness, and provided logical thinkers the chance to really execute a chess-game with offensive and defensive plays. If you would like to learn team racing, please contact RR Sportsmanship Chair Jeff Brock at [jeffbrock@me.com](mailto:jeffbrock@me.com). We are recruiting for the next team race event which is July 16-17, quickly followed by another two-day event on July 24-25.

### Team Race Clinic

Meanwhile, five other racing Roadrunners joined East Coast sailors, and spent a warm, humid week at the US Sailing Center in Marin County,



Florida for a team racing clinic for 28 sailors from Florida, North Carolina, New York, Louisiana, and Austin.

## Winter Practice

Despite cool and dismal weather in Austin, you may have seen **Lucas Tenerrio** sailing on Lake Travis

nearly every day this month. His dedication is impressive as he gears up to sail in his first international regatta at the Semana Internacional del Yachting de Mar del Plata, Argentina. This ISAF event will have starting lines for: Optimist, Laser, Cadet, 420, 29er, 49er, F18, Snipe, Kiteboarding and 2.4mr. It is guaranteed to be an amazing week of action.



## Orange Bowl

Sailing for Austin Yacht Club after four days of racing, 11 races in breezy conditions, and racing against 100 sailors in the laser radial division from all over the world were **Alexandra Mares** (42nd place) and **Spencer LeGrande** (25th place) at the Orange Bowl Regatta in Miami. Across all fleets, this is the largest regatta in the nation with over 625 participants. Way to represent!

## Frostbite Series

The Frostbite Series for keelboats continues. If you have a sailor who is at least six years old who would like to be on the big keel boats for the series contact **Bill Records** at [brecordsfotos@yahoo.com](mailto:brecordsfotos@yahoo.com) to learn more.

**SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 9-10**

**AUSTIN YACHT CLUB ROADRUNNER REGATTA**

**Voted Best TSA Regatta in 2015**

## Roadrunner Valentine's Dinner

*Join us as we celebrate the final race day of the Frostbite Series with a heartwarming Valentine's dinner! Enjoy great food and delicious desserts, prepared by the families of the Roadrunner Fleet to raise funds for our growing youth racing program. Make the moment last with our photo booth!*

### Appetizer

Tomato Basil Soup

### Entree

Fire Roasted Pork Tenderloin

Handmade Spätzle

Pork Roast Gravy

Salad Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette

### Dessert

Scrumptious Sweet Treats



## 2016 Junior Sailing Program

### Upcoming Junior Events

1/30: Opti & Laser Pre-Season

1/31: Free Sail Sunday  
1:00-4:00

2/1: Junior Sailing Camp & PBJ Registration OPENS!

2/6-2/7: Opti & Laser Racing Clinic

2/7: Free Sail Sunday  
1:00-4:00

2/12: Junior Sailing Pizza Party & Info Session  
6:00 pm

2/13: Opti & Laser Pre-Season

2/14: Free Sail Sunday  
1:00-4:00

2/20: Opti & Laser Pre-Season

**Now open to NON-MEMBERS!** The Austin Yacht Club Junior Sailing Program offers weekly practices with our coaching staff to sailors of all skill levels ages 8-18. The 2016 Spring Season kicks off March 5!

The full 2016 practice schedule and fees are now available on the [AYC website](#). Registration coming soon!

NEW in 2016, we will be offering a Summer Season in June, July, and August to keep our racing groups on the water, even while the Junior Sailing Camp and PB&J are in session!

**Join us February 12 from 6:00-7:00 pm for a Junior Sailing Program Info Session & Pizza Party** to learn more. Bring your friends!

## 2016 Junior Sailing Camp

AYC's Junior Sailing Camp for sailors ages 8-16 is a week of sailing, racing, fun and games on Lake Travis! Sessions run Monday-Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. AYC is offering six weeks of Junior Sailing Camp in 2016:

	DATES	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
1	June 13-17	\$395	\$480
2	June 20-24	\$395	\$480
3	June 26-July 1	\$395	\$480
4	July 11-15	\$395	\$480
5	July 18-22	\$395	\$480
6	July 25-29	\$395	\$480

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2/21: Free Sail Sunday

1:00-4:00

2/27: Opti & Laser Pre-Season

2/27-2/28: Texas Sailing Association Youth Circuit Regatta @ CCYC

2/28: Free Sail Sunday

1:00-4:00

3/5: Junior Sailing Program Spring Season Opener!

3/5: AYC Opening Day Brunch & Ceremony

3/6: 2nd Annual Junior Opening Day Unregatta

## **Registration opens February 1!**

Members will need to enter coupon code **AYC2016** at checkout to obtain member pricing. The code will zero out your balance and the correct member rate will be billed to your AYC account.

# **2016 PB&J Summer Sailing Series**

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PB&J is perfect introduction to sailing for kids ages 4-10! PB&J keeps things fun and simple, teaching the basics through games and hands-on-learning. AYC is offering four sessions of PB&J Summer Sailing Series in 2016:

	DATES	TIME	MEM	NON MEM
1	Saturday June 4, 11, 18, 25	9:30-11:00	\$65	\$100
2	Saturday June 4, 11, 18, 25	11:00-12:30	\$65	\$100
3	Saturday July 9, 16, 23, 30	9:30-11:00	\$65	\$100
4	Saturday July 9, 16, 23, 30	11:00-12:30	\$65	\$100

More sessions will be added as needed.

## **Registration opens February 1!**

Members will need to enter coupon code **AYC2016** at checkout to obtain member pricing. The code will zero out your balance and the correct member rate will be billed to your AYC account.

## **Contact**

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Questions? Contact AYC Sailing Director Kate Noble at [kate@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:kate@austinyachtclub.net) or (512) 266-1336

## J/24 Fleet Update

by David Broadway

The fleet Christmas party included fleet leadership elections, awards, acknowledgements, and the hilarious white elephant gift exchange!

Re-elected as fleet captain was **John Parker**, Treasurer **Meiling Parker**, and a new Social Chair Chick **Amanda Casey**. For all the leadership work they do, the fleet awarded **John and Meiling Parker** a gift card to one of their favorite restaurants. **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** was recognized for his fleet-building efforts and for the addition of his now 3rd J/24 to the local fleet. Many thanks to **Laura Miller** for her efforts in the Social Chair position.

The fleet retained one and added two J/24s to the fleet during 2015. In addition to **Amanda Casey's** Momentous entry (formerly **Doc Gamble's** Ohh Ahh), **Doug and Sun Hi Casey** purchased Corona, while **Jorge** towed his new Three Stray Dogs back from CA! Currently, three possible 2016 J/24 additions are already under consideration. The fleet continues an incredible growth path under the leadership of **John Parker** and **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás**!

There were numerous nominees for the Fleet MVP, including **Rachel Loziuk** (Giggles), **Ron and Macie Morrison** (Superman), **Rhonda AmRhein** (Vang Go), **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** (Momentous), and **Ken Berringer** (Sforzando). All the skippers provided strong qualifying details. With the crowd noise meter determining the winner, **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** was chosen for his comprehensive guidance of **Amanda Casey** in putting her newly acquired Momentous on the start line not only for the AYC Series racing, but as a Road Warrior at all seven stops of the 2015 J/24 Texas Circuit Regatta! Jorge coached Amanda in all phases of starting, mark rounding, and even trailer bearing service! Well-deserved, Jorge!!



MVP nominees, photos courtesy of Sun Hi Casey

**Natalie Penner** received the Excellence Award for the Giggles Team efforts in boat preparation, traveling to both the J/24 US Nationals (Berkeley CA) and NA's (Portland ME), and achieving 2nd place on the 2015 J/24 TX Circuit Regatta.

**Stu Juengst** once again won the J/24 Fleet Champion award, having participated in the most events both at AYC and as a Road Warrior on the J/24 TX Circuit!



**Pat Caughey** provided his MC expertise in running the White Elephant gift exchange. While **Amanda Casey** continually had her gift selections stolen, in the end the Momentous Team prevailed with the final pick in securing the prized Pyrat, which seems to be ever present at the fleet racing and social events. **David Hull** should receive royalties for introducing the elixir to the fleet. Several other gifts from previous fleet Christmas parties were re-gifted including a certain bib for special occasions.



Team Chupacabra

There has been no down time in racing activity during the holidays. **John Parker** organized a Dec. 27 informal regatta with three entries despite some chilly, wet weather. Another J/24 & J/22 informal regatta was scheduled for Jan. 10 with 5+ J/24 entries. All of this activity along with the fleet participation in the AYC Frostbite Series, evidences the fleet anticipation of the return of the J/24 Texas Circuit Regatta to AYC in March, when 20-25 entries are expected!!

## Catalina 22 Fleet Update

by Steve Pervier

Hello Catalina 22 Sailors, and Happy New Year! Our AYC racing program is underway with Frostbite Series on Saturdays, Jan 16 - Feb 13. Is anyone interested in getting together and sailing on one of these dates? Or, let's meet at the clubhouse to talk about racing plans and other sailing, or combine crews on one of the larger boats owned by fleet members (like a C30).

Since I'm serving again as your Fleet Captain, I'll be looking for your input and interest in C22 racing – even before the weather warms up! Send me an email at [steve.c22.ayc@gmail.com](mailto:steve.c22.ayc@gmail.com) when you get a moment – let's talk all things C22 and sailing.

# Frostbite Series



Photos Bruce McDonald



*continued next page*

# Frostbite Series



Photos Bruce McDonald

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photos by Lynna Holland



## Keel Fleet Update

by Bob Goldsmith

### A Random Walk Down Keel Fleet

Investment guru Burton Malkiel, who wrote *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*, recently did a newspaper piece about investing for 2016. It seems that stocks are too expensive to buy, but selling could also be a mistake. With interest rates effectively zero, bonds and CDs make little sense, but are you going to keep your money in a mattress? OK, so conventional investments do not scintillate for this year. I get that. What about buying a new sailboat? Zydeco, our Hunter 28.5, was built in the late 80s – is it time for something new? *SAIL* magazine just had a test of the new Marlow Hunter 31 – a tad longer but same sturdy B&R rig, six foot standing headroom, full kitchen, shower, quite fast. Well ... mostly same deal as with Zydeco, but the new boat is shinier and could be ours for only \$152,000. WHAT!!!! AYC's harbor is full of classic racer/cruisers, and fiberglass boats in fresh water hold up really, really well for decades. Just think, for a mere song you could get that Catalina 30, Cal 9.2, San Juan 7.7 or many another and have a floating luxury cabin on the lake that wins trophies on Sunday. And you would save enough of your \$152,000 for a new Aston Martin. Or you could use it for food, clothing and junior's tuition for the next few years while still sailing competitively in high style. Forget lousy stocks and bonds, the investment of a lifetime is tied up to a dock waiting for you. Or maybe you have a classic racer/cruiser already – how cool is that? Will we be seeing you out there?

## C Fleet Update

by James Parsons

### New C Fleet Captain, Red Eye is in the books, Frostbite coming up, and a new summer night series to look forward to

Well, I started writing something up a few weeks before Frostbite, to introduce myself as C Fleet captain: "I am thrilled to be the C Fleet captain this year. It's been great getting to know lots of you, and I'd like to thank you for welcoming me, and for not allowing me to finish last :-)"

Well, that last part....umm, well.... I suppose I should just jump into the recap from the perspective aboard the Pirate Unicorn.

### Red Eye Recap

42 degrees and 12 knots never felt so good. The Russians have a saying that "there is no such thing as weather that is too cold...just clothes that aren't warm enough" and that saying really held true, thanks to the array of colorful foulies seen on the water.

If you thought you missed out on a great race and great weather, I am not one to argue. We had seven boats, and all of us finished within 10 minutes of each other (elapsed and corrected). The start was clean and spacious. Yours truly had enough room to start right at the boat side of the line with speed.

**Bill Records** aboard Café au Lait with a fresh bottom job was closing the gap. **Mack Warner** the wiley skipper of Warley, slipped through on a port

tack between the two Pearson 26s, possibly due to the crew drinking more espresso shots than Café au Lait's and Pirate Unicorn's crews combined. No foul was committed, and no coffee or other beverages were spilled.

At the first mark, the Pirate Unicorn was pleasantly surprised to be in first place, amongst some of the best skippers C Fleet had to offer. But as is often the case with the Cypress Creek area around E mark, the wind dropped, shifted, and became a cruel mistress.

While most of the fleet stayed to the North to get to the middle of the lake as quickly as possible, there was unicorn hunting to the south by the early leader, as well as **Tom Groll**, the hearty sole sailor aboard Chula who eventually finished in third (line and corrected).

As the race went on, it became a three horse race for the podium spots. The early favorite, and continuing their winning streak, were the **Dahmen Brothers** (aboard Dahmenation, officially known as Styf Kop), with **Bill Records** (who had line honors, and second by a corrected 78 seconds) and **Tom Groll** (losing out on second by a corrected 48 seconds). Four minutes (corrected) later, came **Mack Warner** in fourth across the line and corrected (the espresso wore off somewhere between E and 5). Fifth across the line was the Pirate Unicorn, followed by **Eric Creamer** aboard Blue Dreams (there is a coffee pun in there somewhere), beating out **Jeff Avant**'s Columbia 26 by four seconds to avoid last across the line.

Awards were given out to the top three finishers, as well as the last place finishers. Before I reveal the award for last place, I'd like to say that my first year as a skipper has been a real blast. Frostbite 2015 was my first race as a skipper in a race, so it holds a special place in my heart.

Remember how I had that introduction thanking you all for not allowing me to finish last? Well, it seems fitting that the streak was broken on the anniversary of my first race as skipper. Our gamble to find a unicorn didn't pay off. Blue Dreams had enough coffee with their Creamer (coffee puns seem to be easier than finding the wind right now), to finish in 5th by 45 seconds corrected over Jeff, who finished in 6th by 43 seconds over the Pirate Unicorn. The prize for last was a 50ml bottle of Tito's.

### Frostbite Series

Race 1: No boats sank. No capsizes (of monohulls). Everyone stayed onboarrrrrr....nevermind.

The patchy morning wind of 3 knots, with floating debris pooled where the wind wasn't reaching, was a very very deceiving picture of what would hit only three hours later. The conditions became some that were great for a battle with Mother Nature. Max winds recorded: 31.3 knots. Forrest Gump's Lieutenant Dan would have had a 170 genoa, a spinnaker up, and have climbed to the top of the mast to see if he could try to capsize "Jenny". If he was in a C Fleet boat, he would have disappointingly left unscathed. Maybe a Hobie Cat would have been more his style (I hear it capsized four times). Or a San Juan 24 and the spinnaker death roll with high winds.

At the start, the wind had picked up to 8 knots or so around the start, with some boats going with smaller jibs, others with genoas. The choice of sails

*continued next page*

reminded me of pre-race Formula 1 decisions. Wet or dry tires? Full tank of gas for one refill, or a partially filled tank for less weight and refill more?

Aboard the Pirate Unicorn, we went for the gamble of using a genoa, hoping the latest forecast was wrong. It was right....8 knots became 15. 15 became 30. Sheets were fouled, bruises were made, men and women unwillingly left the (relative) safety of their respective vessels, parts were broken, a concussion from a spinnaker pole was had, and a Hobiecat capsized....four times, that wasn't a typo above. C Fleet was one of the fleets least hit by the strong winds. **John Durfor** even carried a 155 foresail the whole race, without too many issues (though, a fouled sheet did apply the brakes at the first windward mark). The Pirate Unicorn fouled a sheet, dropped the genoa for a 100, and started passing the eventual J/24 winner, Vang Go, who still had their genoa up. Broken Arrow threw **Dane Ohe** overboard (there were at least three on the day in all fleets). They still finished in fourth, but the episode may have cost them a third place, so it didn't hurt too bad. Below are the results for race 1

Skipper	Boat Name	1
Records,Bill	Cafe au Lait	1
Durfor,John	Blue Note	2
Tzolov,Doichin	Lemon Jello	3
Pendleton,David	Broken Arrow	4
Parsons,James	Pirate Unicorn	5
Grizzle,David	Entheos	6
Bennett,Robert	One Big Holiday	7
Voelker,Annette	Afternoon Delight	8
Naylor,Cindy	Gambit	9

Race 2: Very calm conditions lead to a lot more chatter between skippers at the start of Race 2. "Leeward, Up Up, a foot away" were all heard at what was generally a pedestrian paced start.

Well, for the most part. Starting

at a Segway pace was **Larry Haig** and **Russ Shermer** aboard Blue Moon. They caught a puff, and kept on riding it past the start, past the languishing Pirate Unicorn, and half of the rest of the fleet. A pending search for a Segway motor on board is to be conducted. Some may say that San Juan 24s are light air bandits. Some may smell electric motors that cannot be heard. All joking aside, it was an awesome day to be sailing a San Juan 24. **Doichin Tzolov** and **Larry** had their yellow and blue San Juans going at a speed that the other boats had a hard time keeping up with.

Finding the wind was the important part of the first leg up to mile marker 4. Coming down wind from 4 was a nice long spinnaker run for boats that chose to run with a spinnaker. The Pirate Unicorn doesn't believe in spinnakers because it has never seen one onboard. Reports are that it had also not believed in Santa Clause either, until it saw someone that looked a lot like a thinner Texan version that was helming a rival boat. **Doichin** rounded B in first, followed by **Bill Records'** Café au Lait and **Larry** in a battle for 2nd. **Durfor** rounded in 4th, and **David Pendleton** and **Vic Manning** rounded in 5th after passing the spinnaker disbelieving Pirate Unicorn. **Bob Gallant** rounded things out.

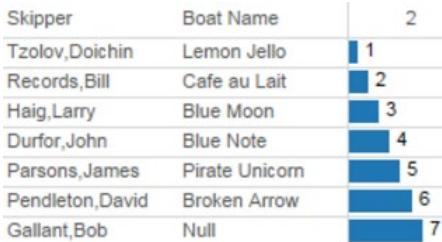
The last leg was where things got very interesting, as there were battles that ended 22 seconds apart, and two seconds apart. **Doichin** was not a part of those battles. He cleared the field by about five minutes. Blue Moon was ahead of Café au Lait, however some confusion with the course and which way to round 6 lead to Blue Moon needing to go back to the mark. They ended up in 3rd, missing out on second by 22 seconds. **John Durfor's** Blue Note finished in 3rd, four minutes later, and two minutes ahead of the next group.

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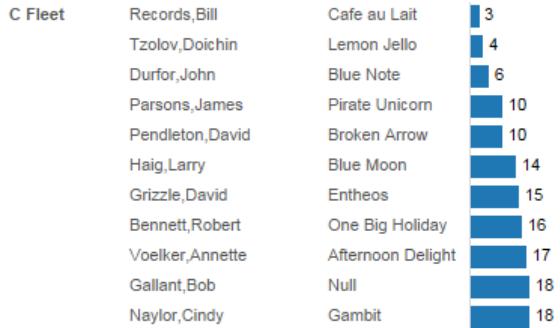
## C Fleet Photo Highlights – Red Eye



The next battle was two of the newer Pearson 26 owners, **David Pendleton** with Broken Arrow, and yours truly, **James Parsons** with the Pirate Unicorn. After taking over 5th on the downwind leg, Broken Arrow was steaming along towards Mile Marker 6, via the middle of the lake. Aboard the Pirate Unicorn we knew it might be a close call with the handicap for not using a spinnaker. We cut inside, hoping a lift for us meant a knock for Broken Arrow. David rounded 6 (to port) in 5th, made way for the finish. The Pirate Unicorn, was hoping a lift could help them make the line without tacking. Lady Luck was not that nice, so we had to put in two tacks, and hope we weren't on the wrong side of a close finish. The Pirate Unicorn's horn must have assisted, and if it didn't have a Broken Arrow, David's boat may have not lost by a difference of two seconds. Here are the results for race 2:



Overall, the standings for C Fleet after two races are:



### Moonlight/Full Moon/Moonburn Series

Stay tuned for a yet to be named new three race series this year, the Friday nights nearest the full moons of June, July, and August. This past summer, I tended to avoid sailing during the day due to the heat and lack of wind (with the exception of races). I still managed to sail three to four times a week, all in the evenings. Once the sun drops, a steady wind picks up, and sailing at night is an experience to be shared. Also, getting a moonburn is about as likely as seeing a unicorn. More information soon!

### Crew Offer

Lastly, I would like to extend an offer, that if you are ever looking for crew, I will do my utmost to help find you some excited crew who are enthusiastic about getting into sailing.

The crew dilemma is one of the hardest parts about being a sailboat owner. I want to do everything I can to get as many boats on the water as possible, and introduce as many new people to help keep the sport going strong.

One last note: Despite the liberal use of coffee puns in this article, your new C Fleet captain does not drink coffee.

And on that note, I am consuming my prize for last place, right now.

## J22 Fleet Update

by Bob Mathison

Looking back into our fleet's wake, 2015 turned out to be quite a year. With 22 boats in the Club, 18 saw action. 15 participated in series racing and two skippers sailed at least one race in every series, **Bruce Uphaus** and **Gordon Miller**. Nine skippers sailed in half or more series. Four skippers won a series race: **Renee Ruais**, **John Halter**, **Bob Mathison** and **Terry Schertz**. Two skippers won two series races each: **Renee Ruais** and **John Halter**.

At our annual fleet party in the clubhouse, **Gordon and Candace Miller**, in true Oscar style, gave out the four annual awards: Fleet Series Champion went to **Renee Ruais** for winning the most series races in 2015. The Highest Series Participation award went to **Bruce Uphaus**, who completed 30 series races. The Most Improved New Racer award went to **Chuck Waldron**, who competed in each of the last four series races. The final award, Volunteer of the Year, went to our effervescent **Candace Miller**, who stepped up to serve on all fleet race committees and as our social event coordinator.

Looking over the bow into 2016, we're going to be BUSY! Along with our scheduled series races and Club regattas, in March we'll be hosting a J22 Southwest District Circuit Stop, the first in several years, now that our lake level is up.

A goal of mine is to help our fleet members hone their racing skills. So, this year our new fleet training liaison, **Bruce Uphaus**, will keep us informed of all Club training opportunities and will also...drum roll...put together boat handing and sail trim mini-courses, which will be taught by experienced instructors.

**Candace Miller**, our event coordinator, will be our liaison to AYC's social events. She's also planning fun fleet events, several with the J/24 party animals.

One of the most important functions our fleet provides to the Club is our service on race committee. As fleet captain, my goal this year is to ensure we have one or two additional individuals who can effectively lead a race committee. Interested?

### AYC FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHT!

Bring your family, friends and favorite snacks!

AYC Clubhouse

Every Friday night through March 25, 2016

6:00pm - 10:00pm

FREE ADMISSION

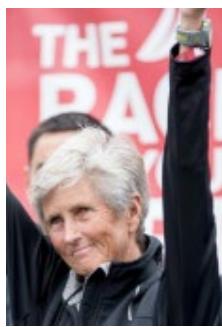
Questions?

Please contact Ray Shull

[shullr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shullr@sbcglobal.net)

# Linda McDavitt's Race Around the World

Linda McDavitt is sailing around the world as part of the 2015-16 Clipper Race. On August 30, Linda and her ClipperTelemed+ teammates departed on a 40,000 mile journey across six continents. We'll catch up with Linda's race around the world next issue. In the meantime, here's a reminder if you wish to support Linda through one of her charities.

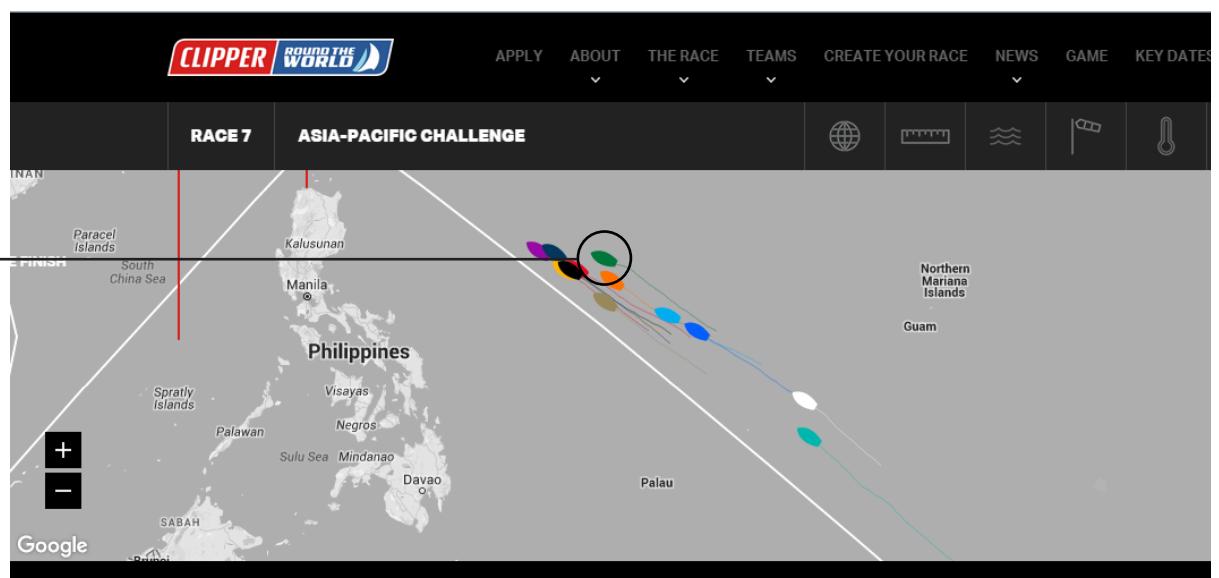


Help Linda reach her goal of raising \$10 for each of the 40,000 miles sailed around the world (a goal of \$400,000) by donating to one of the groups below.

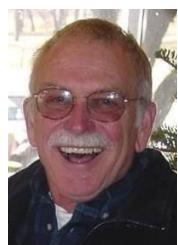
## TEAMAbility

TEAMAbility ensures children in south Texas with severe multiple disabilities have the opportunity to participate actively in life by providing therapeutic educational intervention services. For more information about TEAMAbility, or to make a donation, visit <https://www.teamability.org/>

Here's Linda's ClipperTelemed+ race standing as of 6:20pm February 1, 2016. If you'd like to track her progress, go to <http://clipperroundtheworld.com/race/standings>



*In Memory of*



## Edward Arnold Halter

September 4, 1939 - December 19, 2015

Edward Arnold Halter, a longtime resident of Austin, Texas passed away at the age of 76 on December 18, 2015. Born to Alma Marie (Evers) and Robert Relf Halter in Amarillo, Texas on September 4th, 1939. He was born the oldest of nine children. Upon graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served in active service for six months, followed by two years in the reserve. He married the love of his life, Patricia Lou Whitehill on September 4, 1961.

He went on to graduate from The University of Texas in Austin with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Electrical Engineering. Upon graduation he got a job at IBM and moved to Lexington, Kentucky with his bride, Pat. While in Kentucky, he earned his master's in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Kentucky. In 1968, he moved back to Austin with his family to continue his work at IBM. While in Austin, he took up the sport of yacht racing and became active in the Austin Yacht Club. At one point, he would serve as Commodore of the AYC. He always had a passion for woodworking and car restoration. His favorite vehicles were Corvettes, Porsches and Harley Davidson Motorcycles. He restored many classic Porsche sports cars. In addition, he had many woodworking projects, some of which were featured in Fine Woodworking magazine. There really wasn't much he couldn't fix, make or do. These are hobbies he continued until he could no longer physically do them.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings James Halter, Glen Halter and Roselle Stubber. He is survived by his three sons: David (Jennifer) of Austin, Texas, Robert (Denise) of Elgin, Texas, and John (Pam) of Austin, Texas; his siblings Gary Halter and wife, Linda, of College Station, Texas, Sam Halter and wife, Carol, of Paris, Kentucky, Jack Halter and wife, Jean, of Versailles, Kentucky, Mike Halter of Henrietta, Texas and sister, Janet Boatright and husband, Randy of Houston, Texas, as well as nine grandchildren in order: Jimmy, Jack, Maddie, Betsy, Joe, Bonnie, Kate, John and Jacob.

## AYC Fund

The AYC Fund supports central Texas sailors of all ages by providing grants for sailing education, competitive sailing and instructor development. For more information about the AYC Fund, or to make a donation, visit <http://www.austinyachtclub.net/ayc-fund/>

## UNICEF

Unicef is the world's leading children's organization, ensuring more children are fed, vaccinated, educated and protected than any other organization. Unicef operates in 190 countries round the world, including every country on the Clipper Race route. For more information about Unicef, or to make a donation, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Linda-McDavitt/>

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## E-MAIL AND WEBSITE

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[office@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:office@austinyachtclub.net)

## NEWSLETTER

Susie McDonald, Editor  
[telltale@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:telltale@austinyachtclub.net)

## 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 5
Independence Day	July 4
Thanksgiving Day	November 26
Shopping Day	November 27
Christmas Day	December 25

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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[harbor\\_commander@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:harbor_commander@austinyachtclub.net)

## AYC 2016 RACE CALENDAR

Feb 6 (Sat)	Frostbite Series #4	1:30 Start	J/24 RC
Feb 13 (Sat)	Frostbite Series #5	1:30 Start	J/22 RC
Mar 6 (Sun)	Spring Series #1	1:30 Start	MH RC
Mar 12-13	J/22 Circuit Stop		
Mar 13 (Sun)	Spring Series #2	1:30 Start	Cat 22 / SC21 RC
Mar 19-20	J/24 March Madness	Circuit Stop	
Mar 26-27	Easter Laser Regatta		
April 3 (Sun)	Spring Series #3	1:30 Start	C Fleet RC
April 9-10	Roadrunner Regatta		
April 17 (Sun)	Spring Series #4	1:30 Start	B Fleet RC
April 17	Chaparral del Mar Regatta		
April 22	Beer Can Races Begin		
April 23-24	J/70 Circuit Stop		

## AYC 2016 NON-RACING EVENTS

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	Friday Night Movies	7:00p-10:00p
Feb 6, 13	AYC Racing School	9:00a-12:30a
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27	Opti Pre-Season	12:00p-2:30p
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27	Laser Pre-Season	3:00p-5:30p
Feb 7, 14, 21, 28	Free Sail Sunday	1:00p-4:00p
Feb 7	Super Bowl Party	4:30p-11:00p
Feb 12	Junior Pizza Party & Info Session	6:00p-7:00p
Feb 13	Frostbite End of Series Valentine's Dinner	After series race
Feb 20	RC Training	8:30a-12:30p
Feb 20	Spinnaker Clinic	1:00p-5:00p
Feb 20-21	ASA 101 Basic Keelboat Sailing	8:30a-5:30p
Feb 25	AYC Board Meeting	7:30p
Feb 27	Building & Grounds Workday	8:00a-5:00p
Mar 5	Scott Young Start Clinic	1:00p-5:00p
Mar 6	Opening Day Ceremony and Brunch	10:00a

## Mark Your Calendar!

Opening Day Ceremony and Brunch

Spring Series Race #1

March 6

Festivities begin at 10:00 a.m.



This photo of my granddaughter and me is very special. My son and his family live in eastern Europe, usually only get to see them once a year at the most, in Europe. They came to the US for 5 weeks over the Christmas holiday, and we got a perfect day to go sailing.

*John Grzinich*



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



## 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.



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