



Opening Day 2024



Welcome 2024 Board of Directors!

L-R: Renee Ruais, Vice Commodore; Mike Beuerlein, Harbor Commander; Russ Shermer, Immediate Past Commodore; Terry Schertz, Race Commander; Bill Hawk, Commodore; Lewis Price, Building & Grounds Commander; Lynn Jaeger, Secretary; Robert Bennett, Sail Training Commander *Photo by Cheryl Pervier (edited to include Renee Ruais)*

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Commodore

Travis Lake Level

Board Reports

Long Range Planning Update

Racing Rules of Sailing Photos

Youth Coach Update

Opening Day Ceremony and Regatta

Spring Series Photos

Origin of Governor's Cup Regatta
by John Howard

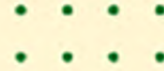
Fun Fridays 2024 by Marilyn Jackson

Fleet Reports

AYC Teams Leave Their Mark in Sint Maarten
by Mike Beuerlein

THE NOT SO

ST PATRICK'S DAY INAUGURAL



LUCKY CHARM REGATTA

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

**APRIL 6TH
2024 ::::**

**AT 9AM-
::::: 4 PM**



FOR NOIR/SI'S PLEASE SEE AYC WEBSITE OR CONTACT
LISA.ROGERS1006@GMAIL.COM
CHRIS@HENKELANYLITICS.COM

NORTH U.

Performance Race Week®



Gus Schmeigle - Regatta Shots.com

April 8-12, 2024
Austin YC

Performance Race Week features expert coaches, fun boats, and refined curriculum (did we mention we've been doing this since 1980?) at great venues to take you as far, as fast, and as fun as we can. Join us!

- 5 Days of training & racing
- One-Design fleet of J80s
- Expert Coach on each boat
- Seminars & Video Review with North U Director Bill Gladstone
- Space is limited
- Sign up solo or as a crew of 4



Comments from Past Participants

I was impressed with the depth of knowledge and patience and encouragement of the coaches!

This was exactly the tune up our team needed to get to a competitive level. My coach was amazing. A font of knowledgeable and willing to share, always calm, and able to explain things in an understandable manner. Finally, overall, a super good guy. Thank you.

I thought I knew how to sail PHRF boats. I was wrong. I learned more in one week than I have in the last 40 years.

The coach on the boat allows for the experience to be tailored and advanced.

You don't have to be an advanced racer to take this course.

Absolutely sign up. It will up your game.

Takes your sailing to another level, great experience learning how people make their boats go fast.

If you want to improve your sail racing game - Do it! You won't regret it!

Be ready for a demanding week but it is so worth it

Read more at NorthU.com...!



Gus Schmeigle - Regatta Shots.com



Anne Morley

<https://asa.com/performance-race-week/austin-2024/>

Use the code S3XH52VNU and save \$150

Message from the Commodore by Bill Hawk



The 2024 AYC Schedule has gotten underway with a bang. Opening Day was a wonderful start to the month and year, including a great brunch put together by the **Ensign Fleet** and a very nice day of racing overseen by this Board and our PRC **Terry Schertz**. Vice Commodore **Renee Ruais** did a great job re-purposing trophies left from one of last year's regattas, and everyone I talked to said they had a great time.

The Spring Series has been a lot of fun so far, Sail Training has gotten well underway for Optis and the High School teams. By the time you read this article, we will have finished the **Roadrunner Regatta** and closed out March with the **Easter Laser Regatta** and **McCarthy Cup**.

April is going to be even more exciting with **SEISA Open and Women's Team and Fleet Racing**, the **North U Performance Racing Clinic**, **Chocopalooza** (at RCYC), and the **Mallory and Baker Cup High School Championship** qualifiers. All new and existing members are also encouraged to attend the **Bearings Meeting** on April 15th for orientation or re-introduction to the many opportunities to become involved with Club activities at every level. There will also be a **Dock Work Party** for anyone who would be available and would like to pitch in to help keep our most important assets afloat over the summer.

A summary of the 2024 AYC budget was sent out to the membership, and will be presented in detail at the upcoming **Town Hall** with the **LRPC**, date to be announced soon! Anyone who wants to see more details before then or wants to talk about the budget and priorities, please reach out to me or any Board member. **Becky Heston** has accepted the vacant Board Treasurer position. Welcome, Becky!

Finally, we are looking for a good candidate to help out with this year's chores and think about volunteering to be the Club Secretary, on the Board, for the coming two years. If you have good organizational skills and would be interested, please let me know!

And now, everyone keep thinking rainy thoughts all spring! It's bound to work sooner or later . . .

SAVE THE DATE

DATE	EVENT
04/05-07	SEISA Open and Womens Team & Fleet Racing
04/06	Lucky Charm Regatta
04/08-12	North U Performance Racing Clinic
04/07, 14, 21, 28; 05/05 Sundays	Spring Series Races
04/12-14	SEISA Championships – Qualifier for Mallory & Baker Nationals
04/15	AYC Bearings Meeting
04/19	Dana McGehee Lappin Memorial
04/19	Beer Can Races start
04/25	AYC Board of Directors Meeting
04/27	UT Sailing Team Alumni Regatta
04/27-28	Beginning Sailing – Session 1
05/18-19	Governor's Cup Regatta
05/25	Single-Handed Regatta
06/01, 08, 15, 22, 29; 07/13, 20 Saturdays	Summer Series Races
09/15, 22, 29; 10/13, 20; 11/03, 10 Sundays	Fall Series Races
10/05-06	Centerboard Regatta
10/26-27	Round the Bend/MultiFest Regatta
11/26	Wild Turkey Regatta

Lake Travis Level 03/26/24



View of the AYC Marina, Opening Day 2024 Photo by Cheryl Pervier

Race Commander Report by Terry Schertz



In this third month of the 2024 season, the PRC team and I are moving on from the initial efforts in RC training and modifications, to fleet configurations and race format, to some new topics on the never ending to-do list.

We are turning our time and attention to some important topics such as:

AYC Web Page

The selections under the *Racing Info and Documents* section of the *Race* tab are in need of a refresh to bring them up to date. Which requires that the documents themselves are up to date. The Go-No-Go criteria, the Course Card, The Race Handbook, and Scoring guidance are just a few examples of documents that we need to update or replace. There are a number of efforts underway to update the Web pages, so this is just our part of it.

Handicap Rating Committee

I mentioned this topic in the February report as something new to the RC purview, and that I hoped to have it all up and running by now. But it requires some focus that I have not yet been able to give it. It is high on the list and I can at least say that a few good people have agreed to be on the committee. This will also require some revisions to the links in the AYC web page to provide clear guidance for the new process. There will be a communication about the new process as soon as it is available.

MarkSet BOT Maintenance

The warranty on the BOTs has expired and we are working on the options with MSB for maintaining them. Given that we have some members with skills to work on them, our options may be much easier to set up. More later as we work this out.

If some of this sounds kind of tedious, well, you would be right! But we

need to have organized, up-to-date information about our racing and it takes some fairly un-fun effort to make that happen (as many before us have done). So, cheer the volunteers on who have the patience and skills to make this happen.

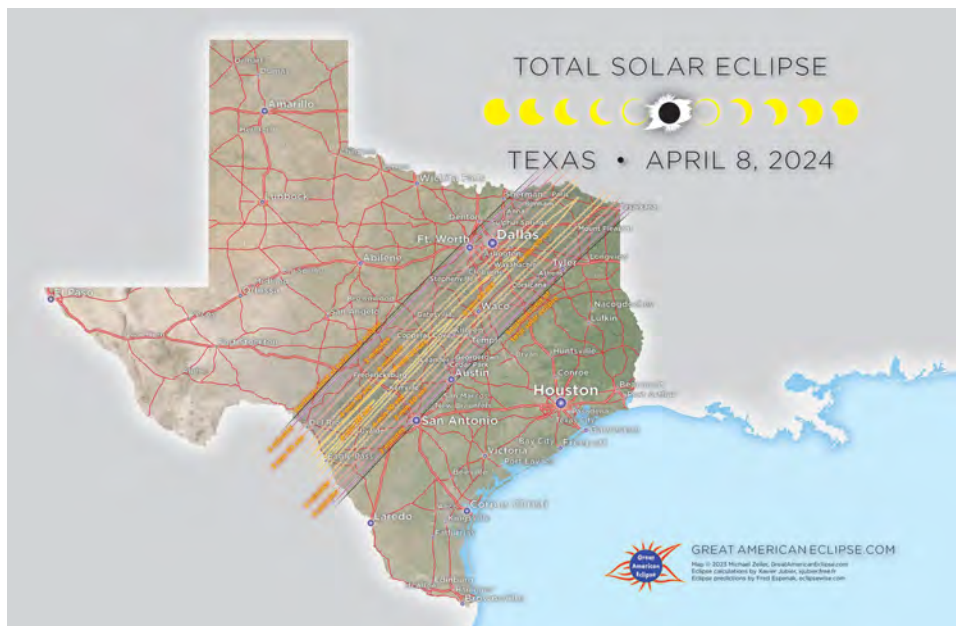
One other thing that has come under the purview of the Race Commander that was run by the PRF Board is the popular Friday Night Beer Can Series. The FUR has been submitted for approval and the first date is April 19th. The PRF Board provided links to their documents for running the series and **Ray Shull** has graciously updated the SIs and pursuit start times. I am working on organizing the funding and some key people to organize the burgers! We have to have burgers! All will be posted as soon as possible!

EXTRA! Total Solar Eclipse at the Club!

Monday April 8th, if the weather cooperates, will be a very special day right here at Austin Yacht Club. A solar eclipse will occur at about 1:30 pm and we are in the path of totality. Those who have experienced it say that it is truly strange and wonderful. The next total eclipse will be in 2033 and only in Alaska, then 2044 in western Canada, Montana, and North Dakota. 2045 will be the next time a total eclipse will span much of the US – just a mere 21 years away.

Without realizing the date, the Performance Race Week Clinic (North U) was scheduled for the week starting on that Monday! The schedule of the clinic for the day has been adjusted to work around the timing of the eclipse. The traffic in the area is projected to be 'a mess', so we are suggesting very early arrival at the Club for the students with a plan to hang out at the Club or in the Hudson Bend area until the traffic lets up. Between students, coaches, instructors and volunteers, we expect to have about 50 people at the Club. Volunteers for that day will need to be primarily people who live in the Hudson Bend area. All food for lunch and the traditional Welcome Happy Hour will be made at AYC and/or provided by local Hudson Bend restaurants. We have planned as well as can.

Whether you decide to experience the total solar eclipse at the Club (the point is bound to be a great place for it) or somewhere else, here's hoping that we have clear skies and that it is as amazing as it can be!



Building & Grounds Commander Report by Lewis Price



Spring has sprung around our beautiful sailing mecca here on Lake Travis, and so have a multitude of B & G projects and activities.

First of all, hats off to B & G committee members **Marilyn & Jeff Jackson** for working so diligently on both the upstairs and downstairs water fountains and getting them back in working order. Secondly, a thanks should go out to fellow B & G committee member **Owen Crouse** for organizing and executing a shrub and tree limb clean up along Beacon Drive approaching the Club entrance. Finally, a thank you should go out to assistant caretaker **Kyle** for spreading mulch and getting the place ready for what turned out to be a wonderful Opening Day.



B & G committee member Jeff Jackson working on water fountain



B & G committee member Owen Crouse cleaning up tree and brush

In February, the Board approved the much needed improvements to the children's playscape and that work was promptly addressed. The new border around the fall material not only looks great but should last a very long time.

As we rolled into March, some very important B & G related issues were either promptly addressed by the Board via e-vote or were discussed in the March Board meeting. Most importantly was the approval of a company to install a new operating system for the front security gate, which has been nonfunctional since January. This updated operating system will work similarly to the old one and addresses the functionality demands that we desired.

Also, bids were solicited and received for some much needed electrical work to be done. This work will include improvements to the lighting system on the electrical pole by the main parking lot, but also new outlets by the large patio area to help accommodate the live bands we have at various events. Additionally, the antiquated office phone system will be updated upon Board approval.

The largest Cap-ex B & G project is being addressed and hopefully work will begin soon. This is the upgrade of the existing waterline system. It involves replacing 1" piping with 2" inch pvc and the installation of more shut-off valves for each cabin, as well the relocation of some faucets to make them more boat maintenance friendly.

B & G committee member and resident tree guru, **Danny Lien**, took the time to bring me up to speed on AYC's ongoing battle against oak wilt. We did a walkabout and he explained the treatment process, which will continue in April after the oaks go through their leaf cycle under the guidance of an organization called *We Love Trees*. We also talked about the formation of a tree committee that will address not only what type of new trees to purchase, but also placement and efficient watering strategies. Look for an upcoming email from me asking for volunteers to serve on this committee.

Finally, I am planning a work day for late April so look for that notification after I decide on a date. These are always great opportunity for probationary members to get in volunteer hours.

See you around the Club!

Long Range Planning Committee Update by Sarah Faust



The 2024 Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has convened twice this year and is looking forward to its role in providing strategic advice and continuity for AYC. The 2024 LRPC has one continuing member, **Molly Isbell**, and two new members: **Sarah Faust and Johannes Brinkmann**. **Jim Casto's** term on LRPC ended but he has graciously agreed to continue meeting with the LRPC in order to provide continuity with the 2023 LRPC's work. For 2024, the LRPC's highest priorities are: budget policies, member engagement, and harbor configuration.

Budget Policies

The LRPC will be working with the Board of Directors to develop a multi-year rolling budget system. A multi-year rolling budget would

Sail Training Commander Report by Robert Bennett



AYC Sail Training registration for spring youth programs, adult sailing, summer camp, and PB&J is live and continuing to fill up. Let your friends and family know of these fun opportunities.

We are one week into the spring session with many classes remaining.

Many of our young sailors and their families came out for the 2024 Roadrunner Regatta.

The event exposed them to both light and windy conditions. While I've seen snapped masts, I saw my first snapped Opti boom that weekend! Everyone was fine and smiling despite the gusty (and chillier) conditions. The Roadrunner Regatta will be covered in more detail in the April issue of Telltale.

We hired a part-time coach, **Mark Carella**, who is focusing on high school practices with Head Coach **Zach**.

Finally, we are working to supplement our on-the-water training opportunities with virtual/online programs, and will be adding Discover Sailing opportunities soon.

More to come on this exciting news!

RACING RULES OF SAILING PHOTOS



Jan 24, 2024, Instructor Michael Moran Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Jan 24, 2024, Instructor Michael Moran

allow Board members to think about budget needs over more than a 12-month cycle, and give their successors a starting place to adjust the coming and future years' budgets as necessary without reinventing the wheel every year. The LRPC will also be looking into better aligning the capital improvements plan with the multi-year budget cycle and decision-making structures regarding major capital improvements. To learn more about the AYC budget, get a preview of the rolling budget proposal, and give the LRPC your feedback please consider attending a Town Hall meeting that will be held in April. Check your email for the specific date and time.

Member Engagement

Hopefully you completed the Member Engagement survey that was issued in March. The Member Engagement Committee designed and produced the survey in consultation with the LRPC and AYC Commodore, **Bill Hawk**. The Member Engagement Committee will be processing the survey results and facilitating outreach and volunteer recruitment to members in their identified areas of interest. They will also be determining how the results can be used by future event chairs and program organizers. The LRPC will continue working with the Member Engagement Committee throughout the year to recommend policies that could enhance volunteerism at AYC, including determining if a standing Member Engagement Committee should be created through the AYC bylaws. If you took the survey and realized there is an area you would like to learn more about, feel free to reach out to the Board member for that area (e.g. Building & Grounds) and let them know you want to help out! You can also reach out to the Member Engagement Committee at MemberEngagement.AYC@gmail.com if you need help getting connected.

Harbor Configuration

An ad-hoc Harbor Action Committee was established in 2023 to discuss options and considerations associated with long-term harbor configuration and boat storage. Because this is an important long-term issue, the LRPC has recommended the ad-hoc Harbor Configuration Committee continue through 2024 with a goal of recommending a specific long-term plan that can be considered along with other major budget items and initiatives.

We know there are many more challenges and opportunities at AYC than those listed above, and we plan to address additional issues this year, but we wanted to highlight our initial priorities here. If you would like to review the reports from the 2023 Town Halls or the LRPC 2023 Annual Report, please visit the Long Range Planning section of the AYC website and review our February 2024 Board Report (<https://austinyachtclub.net/long-range-planning-committee/>).

Quiz: Which LRPC member is not only a former AYC Commodore but also an accomplished cellist? Come to our Town Hall meeting to find out!



Feb 3, 2024, Instructor Chris Lewis Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Feb 10, 2024, Instructors Michael Moran and Terry Schertz



Feb 3, 2024, Instructor Chris Lewis



Feb 17, 2024, Instructor Ray Shull



Feb 10, 2024, Instructors Michael Moran and Terry Schertz



Feb 17, 2024, Instructor Ray Shull

Harbor Commander Report

by Mike Beuerlein



Overall Lake Level Imposed Dock Relocations

The lake water level has remained relatively constant throughout 2024 (varying between 630.5 and 632 ft. MSL) so there have been no dock relocations needed. With April and May being relatively wet months, it is hoped that this may continue.

Handrails

Lakeside Marine is fabricating the parts needed to complete handrail installation at the dock access locations, but the process has been moving slower than expected.

North Rigging Dock Improvements

We are still working toward improving the padding and perimeter band boards along the north rigging dock. I've requested the various dock captains catalog all repairs needed for their respective docks for our planned work day on April 27th.

Dock Captain	Harbor Committee
Board Boat Dock-Annie Lancaster	Bob Leonard
Dock 1-Daniel Garces	Bruce McDonald
Dock 2-Steve Shepardson	Doug Powell
Dock 3-Bill Records	Elizabeth Quintanilla
Dock 4-Richard Ryon	Harry Polly
Dock 5-Steve Whitley	Jeff Avant
Dock 6-Kurt Zinsmeyer	Joel Rosinbum
Dry Sail Area-Harry Polly	Mark Kamen
Junior Sailing Dock-Zach Steuer	Tom Groll

Please refer to the Member Directory on Clubspot for email addresses.

Dock 4

We are still working toward replacing the wooden triangles on dock 4.

Dry Sail Area

We are analyzing the dry slip area to determine if restriping to reflect the various boat/trailer widths more closely would improve dry slip management. The idea is to create narrower slips for board boats and wider slips for the larger boats, such as catamarans and trimarans. We would also propose to reassign slips based on boat usage so that those boats that being frequently moved in and out of dry sail can do so more easily. Those boats that are being stored and unused will be moved to the back of the dry sail area and out of the more easily accessible slips. This audit is scheduled to begin in April.

Dry Out & Workspace Area

We are researching new ladders for the work area. The new ladders will be the "stairway" style with handrails and a platform at the top. We are considering purchasing two or three of these units, each of a different height to accommodate access to different height/size boats. This effort is to improve safety for members accessing their boats while in the work area.

We have also considered retrofitting the hoist with an electric winch. At this time, we do not feel this is a priority item and will defer it until after more pressing issues have been resolved.

We have also discussed our fee structure for the dryout and work space area, which is currently free. In an effort to address those who abuse our system by remaining in the dryout area for prolonged periods of time, storing non-member boats in the dryout area, and continually requesting workspace storage for prolonged periods of time, we are considering imposing fees. Once we reach agreement on a policy to this end, a motion will be presented for consideration.

Junior Sailing Pavilion

Earlier this month, we had a very unusual incident where a member's car was accidentally left in neutral and went down the hill into the bridge to the Junior Sailing Pavilion. Damage to the bridge was relatively minor (\$1,500-2,000 per Lakeside Maritime Services) but there was also damage to the anchoring winch stands (see right side of accompanying photo). Because the design of the existing Junior Sailing Pavilion bridge was suboptimal and we had already received a quote for replacing the bridge with a better designed version, the decision was made to apply the member's insurance coverage for the repairs to the existing bridge and winch stands toward the replacement instead. That work will proceed as quickly as it can be scheduled.



Youth Coach Update

by Zach Steuer



The AYC sailors have been diligently honing their skills on the water, spending time with friends, and gearing up for our upcoming regattas.

This spring, we are excited to welcome 9 new Opti I sailors to our AYC sailing family. These enthusiastic youngsters are eager to hit the water, learn the winds, and race towards a future filled with excitement and adventure on the waves.

Throughout the winter, our class was bustling with recent Opti I graduates keen on mastering the art of racing and speeding their boats

across the finish line. As we gear up for spring, our Opti II team, consisting of 13 teammates, is all set to compete at the Roadrunner Regatta. Stay tuned for more photos and results in April's Telltale article.

In March, many Opti III sailors resumed sailing after a long winter hiatus. Fortunately, the winter winds have persisted, providing us with breezy practices to better prepare for those windy race days when foul weather gear becomes essential.



Opti II: Intro to Green Fleet class
Photos by Zach Steuer

Exciting news! We are introducing a new class for High School/Middle

School Sailors who are either new to racing or not quite ready to transition into our Club's racing programs. The HS/Middle School: Intro to Sailing class offers an opportunity for those too large for the Optimist class to delve into the intricacies of the seafaring lifestyle. With a mix of new and experienced sailors joining from our HS A/B team, participants will learn alongside peers, potentially solidify crew pairings for future B team endeavors, and engage in fun on-the-water activities and drills. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to reach out to us at the AYC office for more information.

Our High School B team has kicked off the season with fleet racing and is diligently refining their speed and boat handling skills in the E420. Currently, we are facilitating crew pairings to prepare for upcoming regattas in April and May.

The High School A team is hard at work preparing for the Mallory/Baker Qualifier, scheduled for April 13-14 at Southern Yacht Club. The Lake Travis High School Team is confirmed to compete, and we are hopeful that Westlake will also join us.



High School A team sailing E420s Photos by Assistant Coach Mark Carella

Lastly, our ILCA Racing Team has been gearing up for the Roadrunner Regatta and the long list of TSA events for the year. Stay tuned for photos and results in the April Telltale.

Should you have any questions or feedback regarding junior sail training, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sail fast!

Welcome New Members!

Cesar Lithgow	Senior Probationary
Megan Roberts	Senior Probationary
Michael Sowul	Student
Ashley Suchocki	Associate Probationary
David Suarez	Senior Probationary

2024 Opening Day Ceremony



Austin Yacht Club 2024 Opening Day Ceremony and Regatta. March 3, 2024.
This is a special day with speeches, music, ceremony, sailing, and meeting friends “old” and new.



Presenting 2024 Board of Directors!

L-R: Renee Ruais, Vice Commodore; Mike Beuerlein, Harbor Commander; Russ Shermer, Immediate Past Commodore; Terry Schertz, Race Commander; Bill Hawk, Commodore; Lewis Price, Building & Grounds Commander; Lynn Jaeger, Secretary; Robert Bennett, Sail Training Commander

Photos by Cheryl Pervier



Bagpipes by Brian Kirk



Sea Scouts Joey Williams, Kirti Ragavan, Tim Williams, Sean Williams, Gabi Furnans raise the US Flag

continued next page

2024 Opening Day Ceremony



Beautiful rendition of the National Anthem sung by Elena Davis



Master of Ceremonies Commodore Bill Hawk



John Burke delivered the Blessing for Sailors



Sea Scout Leaders L-R: David Aronson, Kevin Dunlevy, Venkat Ragavan



Past Commodores Annie Lancaster and Claude Welles



Past Commodores L-R: Anne Morley, Diane Covert, John Mandell



Past Commodores L-R: Pat Manning (representing Vic Manning), Danny Lien, Eric Nelson, David Walberg

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2024 Opening Day Ceremony



Past Commodores L-R: Barry Bowden, Ray Shull, Wade Bingaman



Past Commodores L-R: Tom Romberg, Bill Records, Lanelle Montgomery, Pat Manning (representing Vic Manning), Steve Vaughn, Molly Isbell



HISTORY OF THE AUSTIN YACHT CLUB, 1980s and 1990s

by Bill Records

Sometime before I ever sailed, I got a magazine assignment to cover the artist Cristo's visit to the Laguna Gloria Art Museum. Cristo was an artist from Europe who, with his wife Jeanne-Claude, created environmental installations all over the world. I was asked to also serve as a driver to show Cristo and Jeanne-Claude around the Austin area. While driving across Mansfield Dam, we saw sailboats on the lake, and Cristo asked me if I knew of anyone who would take them sailing. I knew that **Francis McIntyre** was a sailor, so I called him, and he said that he would love to take them sailing. He told me to bring them to the Austin Yacht Club at 2 p.m. on Saturday. So I called the museum director. He knew Francis was a doctor, and if his boat was at the Austin Yacht Club, it must be a nice big yacht! I arrived with Cristo, Jeanne-Claude, the museum director, carrying a picnic basket, and four bottles of wine, and two Board members. There stood Francis with his M-20 tied up to the dock and it was blowing 18-25 knts! Jeanne-Claude had on a designer dress and high heels! When the director suggested rescheduling, Jeanne-Claude said *no way*, pulled off her heels, boarded the boat, and the three of them took off. Two hours later, they returned sopping wet from capsizing three times. They were both wearing big grins.

To me this looked like fun. A short time later I bought a boat, joined AYC, and began crewing on **Carl Morris's** South Coast 21, "Gin Tonic." In those days, the Ensigns shared a start with the South Coast 21s and they did not appear to like each other. At the start, there was a lot of yelling between the two fleets, but after the race they drank beer and joked about the race.

My first race at AYC was a PHRF race in which I was competing with the Ensigns. They beat me pretty soundly, but during a lunch break when I was tied up to the T-head, **Hap Arnold, Jim Baker, Sandy Bauman, and Gene English** came over and welcomed me to the Club. They looked my boat over and made suggestions about rigging to make it faster and helped me retune the rig. I was impressed that this was a sport in which your competitors wanted you to be better. I was hooked!

When I joined, the dues were \$35 per month. There was no Club manager. **Lee DeKeyser** was the Club secretary, and her office was in the storage room behind the trophy case. There was no automatic security gate, and we had only five docks. Most of the racing was one-design, and a large percentage of the boats were centerboards. Some of the dinghies even had wet slips, and **Eddie Halter** and **Jack Breen** built mechanical hoists for them. **Terry Nelms, Fred Schroth, and Linda McDavitt** sailed in the Fireball fleet. **Eddie Halter, Deke DeKeyser, and Russell Painton** sailed Thistles. **Jack Kern** and **Francis McIntyre** sailed M-20s. At one time, the largest centerboard fleet was the C-15 fleet, and a young Texas A&M graduate named **Terry Schertz** won a lot of races. Keel handicap racing was relatively new to the Club. Previously, PHRF of Lake Travis ran handicap races separate from the Club. Most of these races were long distance and each year there was an overnight race to Lago Vista and back. During the 80s, the PHRF participation grew so rapidly that it was divided into four classes. The Spring Series in 1981 had 56 PHRF boats competing!

I soon realized that what made the Club great was all of the remarkable people. **Frank McBee**, one of AYC's founders and first commodore, launched Tracor, the first homegrown high tech company in Austin. **Victor Szebely** was chairman of Aerospace Engineering at UT. His work on celestial mechanics was instrumental in saving Apollo 13. **Ray Lott** was part of the Berlin Airlift following World War II. And who could forget **Hap McCollum**, the Red Eye trophy's namesake. He kept some of his construction equipment at the Club, always ready to lend a helping hand. We had

continued next page

2024 Opening Day Ceremony

talked to a demolition company about tearing down an old shed. When they were slow to respond, Hap knocked it down in about a minute with his backhoe. He would regularly haul or launch members' boats with his backhoe. On one occasion, he was asked to knock down the original bathhouse. Since it was solid concrete, the backhoe was ineffective. After a short period in which he was tinkering inside the building, he came running out and asked everyone to clear the area. He hid behind the wall below the clubhouse. In a few minutes, the building exploded, throwing chunks of concrete clear into the lake. He had used four sticks of dynamite to remove the building. With Hap, forgiveness was always easier to get than permission! **Vic Manning** was the consummate leader of the Club, and in the Sunfish fleet, he became president of USSCA. His wife, **Pat**, was national treasurer. When I was commodore, Vic was my go-to guy for advice. One of the best things about Vic was, if you did not take his advice, he did not get upset. He did so much for the Club and never expected recognition. No one did better race committee work than Vic.

There were three sailboat stores in Austin, all owned by AYC members. **Rod Malone** owned Sail & Ski and sold J-boats, Pearsons, Hunters, and Lasers. **Claude Hargrave** owned the Sailboat Shop and sold Sunfish, Catalinas, Cals, and Catamarans. **Conrad Werkentine and Bill Howard** owned Sail Away and sold Columbias and San Juans. In addition, there were two sailmakers in Austin: **Pete Reinhardt and John Bartlett**, and of course there was **Fred Schroth's** Fiberglass Shop. **Patty Halter and Jane Ashby** had a sail repair business and would also make boat canopies. I still have one. Austin was truly a great place to be a sailor!

Throughout the 80s, AYC had four major regattas: Fall Lakeway, Spring Lakeway, Turnback Canyon, and Governor's Cup. The fall and spring regattas would consist of a race to the Lakeway area, a race back on Saturday, and a buoy race in the basin on Sunday. In my first Lakeway Regatta, everyone would tie up on the Lakeway docks, have lunch in the Inn, then race back to the Club. Apparently some of the sailors got a little too rowdy in the restaurant, disturbing the regular customers. The next day, we received a call from the restaurant manager telling us not to come back, ever! Turnback Canyon Regatta would routinely have over 300 boats, 50 of which were Catamarans. We would have 10 kegs of beer near the cove for the arriving boats. We had to delay tapping them so the Catamaran sailors would not drink it all! Non-member boats from every marina would participate. One year, **Deke Dekeyser** raced Turnback on a Laser! Governor's Cup, originally part of the Aqua Festival, was always held on the Fourth of July weekend. One year, Governor White and the Aqua Queen were on hand to present the trophy. As soon as that was done, another rowdy bunch tossed the governor and the queen in the pool. Years later, when I worked for Governor Bush, I asked him if he would come and present the trophy. He declined and said he heard what happened to Governor White and that if he was thrown into the pool, someone might get shot!

In the mid-80s, a group of mainly keelboat sailors wanted to find an inexpensive single-handed dinghy to race at AYC. The Sunfish fit the bill perfectly. It was inexpensive and there were a lot of them. The group was driven by **Shirley Slaughter and Tim Erwin** and included **John Saunders, Steve Brown, Bob Stephens, Roy Crouse, Claudia Bartlett, Rod Ethridge, Bonnie Chambers, Vickie Palmer, Vic and Pat Manning, Mike Strange, and yours truly**. Some of us would look around the dry-sail area, find a boat full of leaves and with flat trailer

tires, and call the owner and make an offer. I think that this works even today. **Tim and Shirley** registered our fleet with USSCA and chose fleet 70. When asked why Fleet was 70, Shirley said we had a local rule that your age plus your girth had to be under 70. Claudia was a rule-breaker; when she was measured, she was pregnant with John!

News travels fast. **Bubba Horner**, a member of the Woodlawn Sailing Club, invited us down to their Sunfish regatta on Woodlawn Lake in San Antonio. Several of us, thinking that we were pretty good, loaded up our boats and made our way to Woodlawn Lake, a small lake in the middle of an old neighborhood. The course was a figure eight, like a demolition derby. When you get to the cross in the middle, you better be on starboard! It turned out to be a humbling experience, as they kicked our behinds! In one race, I had a brief lead, but right before the weather mark, I hit something and came to a complete stop. As **Bubba** passed me, he informed me that I had collided with an HEB shopping cart that they intended to remove. All of the locals knew where it was. The wind was shiftier than Lake Travis, and the word was that every time a bus came by, there was a wind shift. I imagine that they also knew the bus schedule.

Soon after the Woodlawn regatta, we wanted to have a special Sunfish regatta. On a visit to the Austin History Center, **Rod Ethridge** read that people sailed on Town Lake (now Lady Bird Lake) in the early part of the 20th century. Why not have our regatta there? We got our permits and, with some politicking, became the second sailing event to be part of the Aqua Festival. **Steve Clark**, owner of Waterloo Ice House and Ensign Sailor, sponsored us. Sunfish sailors from all over Texas attended, and of course the Woodlawn clan won their share of the trophies. **Sarah Baker Faust** was the first Junior Champion. The sight of 25 Sunfishes on Town Lake was impressive!

A lot of the activities in the 80s were family-oriented and did not always involve racing. We had sports car rallies, on the water scavenger hunts, and cruises. On one occasion, we had a dinner cruise to the Captain's Club restaurant. We sailed to the lakeside restaurant, enjoyed cocktails and a meal, and sailed back. The only problem was that about half of us woke up the next morning with a form of dysentery. It seemed that their water source was too close to their septic system. It was affectionately remembered as the "Shigela cruise."

A lot of the boats were raced by family crews. The **Bowdens, Welles's, Odells (Bonnie Lackey), Kerns, Lotts, Levens**, and more. On race days, **Makenna Nelms** would rope off an area under the clubhouse for babysitting the young children of racers. It became a temporary nursery with cribs and playpens.

A lot of the construction at the Club was undertaken by members. The office was designed by **Trenton Wann** and built with the help of members. **Claudia Bartlett and Mark Rylander** directed the design and construction of the Rylander Pavilion. The cost was covered by the generosity of the members. It didn't cost the Club a penny.

In 1993, a group of parents: **Claudia Bartlett, Tom and Karen Presswood, and Kirk and Janis Livingston** began teaching their small kids to sail Optis. They would make PB&J sandwiches afterward. **Doug Kern and John Moran** added a curriculum, and the PB&J program continues today as the foundation of the AYC's junior program. In 2019, **Commodore Annie Lancaster and I** were asked to present the program at the U.S. Sailing Symposium and it was enthusiastically received.

continued next page

2024 Opening Day Brunch



Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Ensign event team L-R: Chris Covington, Kaye Jaynes, Molly Isbell, Tom Groll, Lynn Jaeger, Danny & Norma Lien, Annie & Charlie Lancaster, Graham Gilmour



Bloody Marys and Mimosas tender Lewis Price



L-R: Anne Morley, Diane Covert, Charlie & Annie Lancaster



L-R: Barry Bowden and Brad Davis

continued next page

2024 Opening Day Brunch



L-R: Molly Isbell and Linda Donovan



Buffet line L-R: Steve Whitley, Cesar & Mary Rosa Jimenez-Lithgow



L-R: Doug & Karen Powell, Harry Polly, Kevin Dunlevy



L-R: Cesar Jimenez-Lithgow, Eric Van Hensbergen, Jeff Jackson



L-R: Commodore Bill Hawk, Anamaria & Colin Popescu, Linda McDavitt, Bill Records



L-R: Lynn Jaeger, Terry Schertz, Stephanie Froelich, Nan Taylor

continued next page

2024 Opening Day Regatta



Skippers' meeting Photo by Cheryl Pervier



Mad rush to the boats after skippers' meeting Photo by Marilyn Jackson



Board of Directors served as Race Committee Photo by Cheryl Pervier



J80s Air Supply and Flyer Photo by Marilyn Jackson



Corsair F27 Trinity Photo by Marilyn Jackson



Capri 25 Ornergy and Catalina 30 Rendezvous Photo by Marilyn Jackson

2024 Opening Day Regatta



Catalina 22 Elysium Photo by Cheryl Pervier



J80s downwind Photo by Marilyn Jackson



PHRF J boats – J22 Bonfire and J70 Wabisabi Photo by Cheryl Pervier



L-R J80 J Eagle, J22 Silicon Ship, J22 Project Mayhem. J80 Jackrabbit, J80 Air Supply Photo by Marilyn Jackson



J80s Warp Speed and J Eagle Photo by Marilyn Jackson

continued next page

2024 Opening Day Regatta



Racing J80s and a Pearson 26 Photos this page by Cheryl Pervier



Ensigns Gravy Boat vs Eagle



Pearson 26s Incognito and JustUs approach Catalina 27 Nancy O



J80s Flyer vs Kicks



Nacra 5.7 Old Skull



B Fleet Catalina 22 Moonlight Sonata and Catalina 30 Risin Moon

2024 Opening Day Regatta Trophies

Photos by Marilyn Jackson except where noted



1st Place Ensign L-R: Tom Groll (skipper) and Molly Isbell, Dancing Bear with presenter Bill Hawk



2nd Place Ensign: George Dahmen (skipper), Stijf Kop



3rd Place Ensign: Danny Lien (skipper), Gravy Boat



1st Place J80 L-R: Ray Shull (skipper), Peg Henderson and Hazel Sanchez, Flyer



2nd Place J80 L-R: Bay Peterson, Anne Riggs, Claudia Bartlett (skipper) & John Bartlett, Speed Racer



3rd Place J80: Eric Faust (skipper), J Eagle



1st Place Multihull: Joel Rosinbum (skipper), Trinity *Photo by Robert Bennett*



2nd Place Multihull L-R: Owen Crouse (skipper) and Dominic Ioime, Old Skull



2nd Place PHRF J: John Rains accepting for Bob Leonard (skipper), J70 Chariot



1st Place Pearson 26: Bill Records (skipper), Cafe au lait



2nd Place Pearson 26 L-R: Chris Walker, Carl Meyers, Chris Ryan (skipper) & Abby Ryan, JustUs



3rd Place Pearson 26: Rich Ryon, Jack Of Hearts



1st Place PHRF A L-R: John Maddalozzo (skipper) and Cass Meyer, Capri 25 Ornerly



1st Place PHRF B L-R: Margarito Morales & Brian Grothues (skipper), Catalina 22 Moonlight Sonata



2nd Place PHRF B: Wade Bingaman (skipper), Catalina 30 Risin Moon



3rd Place PHRF B: Steve Shepardson (skipper) & Meri Shepardson, Catalina 22 Chili Verde

2024 Opening Day Race Results

PHRF A

POS	SAIL	BOAT	SKIPPER	TYPE	PHRF RATING
1	1927	Ornery	John Maddalozzo	Capri 25	171
2	007	Shaken	Kurt Zinsmeyer	J88	87
3	116	Kami	Matthew Brown	Capri 25	171

PHRF B

POS	SAIL	BOAT	SKIPPER	TYPE	PHRF RATING
1	5477	Moonlight Sonata	Brian Grothues	Catalina 22	270
2	5033	Risin Moon	Wade Bingaman	Catalina 30	198
3	9802	Chili Verde	Steve Shepardson	Catalina 22	279

J PHRF

POS	SAIL	BOAT	SKIPPER	TYPE	PHRF RATING
1	1235	Project Mayhem	John Halter	J22	174
2	182	Chariot	Bob Leonard	J70	120
3	672	Silicon Ship	Jim Bridgwater	J22	174

J80

POS	SAIL	BOAT	SKIPPER
1	266	Flyer	Ray Shull
2	1320	Speed Racer	Claudia Bartlett
3	1327	J Eagle	Eric Faust

ENSIGN

POS	SAIL	BOAT	SKIPPER
1	578	Dancing Bear	Tom Groll
2	588	Stijf Kop	George Dahmen
3	1358	Gravy Boat	Danny Lien

PEARSON 26

POS	SAIL	BOAT	SKIPPER
1	198	Cafe au lait	Bill Records
2	1660	JustUs	Chris Ryan
3	230	Jack of Hearts	Richard Ryon

MULTIHULL

POS	SAIL	BOAT	SKIPPER	TYPE	PHRF RATING
1	27130	Trinity	Joel Rosinbum	Corsair F27	51
2	461	Old Skull	Owen Crouse	Nacra 5.7	51
3	1193	O'Wind	Esteban Rodriguez	(Not Listed)	128

SINGLE HANDED REGATTA

COMING SOON - MARK YOUR CALENDAR - MAY 25th, 2024



OPEN TO ALL
BALLASTED KEEL BOATS.
FUN RACING FOLLOWED BY
A MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC.



NOR AND REGISTRATION OUT SHORTLY

Spring Series Race #1



Race 1 canceled, little wind. L-R: Claude Welles, Barry Bowden, Nikhil De
Photo by Cheryl Pervier

Spring Series Race #2



Pearson 26 JustUs Photos by Marilyn Jackson



J80s L-R: Warp Speed and Speed Racer



J80s L-R: Jack Rabbit, Flyer, Sweet T



J80 Warp Speed



Catalina 27 Nancy O

Spring Series Race #2



Catalina 27 Better Than Chocolate Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Catalina 25 Waturi



J80s

Origin of Governor's Cup Regatta by John Howard



Excerpt from October 1961 Telltale...

"The Austin Chamber of Commerce is planning a 10-day water festival next summer to promote the Highland Lakes. The Austin Sailing Club will cooperate in this endeavor and probably schedule our regatta then. This should give us additional publicity. It was proposed at the last meeting that we obtain large permanent trophies to be awarded then and call it the Governor's

Cup Regatta, capitalizing on the presence of the state government. More about this at the next meeting."

DON'T MISS THE 2024



SINGLE HANDED REGATTA MAY 25

ABOVE: An Ensign and a South Coast battle it out in the 2023 Single Handed Regatta

Fun Fridays 2024 by Marilyn Jackson

visitation and food, but were sad it was the last Fun Friday Event of the year. Friday night beer can races will start soon.

Fun Friday Events will resume January through March 2025.



On February 16th, Renee Ruais hosted an awesome Pub Style Trivia Fun Friday night event. Small prizes were awarded. Renee brought ribs and other members brought sides. 14 sailors attended. Tasty and fun.

Jeff & Marilyn hosted a Movie Night for Fun Friday on March 1st. They showed a fast-paced water race movie where the race rules were

simple: no motor, no support, no handicaps and sailors discovered grit and perseverance far beyond anything they had anticipated or experienced. Popcorn and chili hot dogs were served. 22 sailors attended.

Back by popular request, Mylie Alrich hosted Two-Step Dance Lessons for Fun Friday on March 15th. This time, Mylie taught the country-western two-step. 26 sailors enjoyed the evening's lessons,



Fun Friday hosts Marilyn & Jeff Jackson Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Feb 16, 2024 Sailors playing Pub Style Trivia



Feb 16, 2024 Annie & Charlie Lancaster, Renee Ruais, Pat Manning, Norma & Danny Lien



Mar 1, 2024 Movie Night L-R: Alex Chelton-Rosa, Emmerson Rosa, Mystic Rosa (new members)



Mar 1, 2024 L-R: Cesar, Mary Rosa & Emma Jimenez-Lithgow (new members)



Mar 1, 2024 21 sailors attended Movie Night



Mar 13, 2024 Two-Step Dance Lessons L-R: Cesar & Mary Rosa Jimenez-Lithgow with family (new members)



Mar 13, 2024 Country Two-Step Dance Lessons



Mar 13, 2024 Mylie Alrich teaching the guys how to lead



Mar 13, 2024 L-R: Vicki Stones, Pat Manning, Jeff & Marilyn Jackson in Western outfits

Catalina 22 Fleet Report

by William Kozminski



Spring Series 2024 – Race #2 (A Tale of Two Races)

Official Winners

1st place: Moonlight Sonata (Checkered flag) C22

2nd place: Winging IT (Congrats) C25

3rd place: Nancy O (Well done) C27

When you are racing, you see the boat in front of you and you see the boat behind you. The one in front: that's the one to catch, the one behind:

she's the one that worries you. That's the whole race.

The rest of the racers

1st: Sea Snail C22 (My boat)

2nd: Waturi C25 (I am faster)

3rd: Better Than Chocolate C27 (Next time you're mine)

Wait a minute, is this for real? is this a coincidence?

Huh, well yes to both questions. There is a reason that the most popular sailboat is the Catalina 22 – it's a performer. Not only did C22s win both races (official & my race) but they won boat-for-boat against faster boats! And that is significant. Wait, I see another pattern, Catalina domination! Catalina 22s leading the way! This is a call for all C22s, this is our time; let's show the competition that we're the sport model.

The second race of the Spring Series was a resounding success, it was a story of wind rain and the threat of lightning. We had a great time. My sincerest congratulations to all the people that made it happen.

All Catalina Fleet 69 Raft-Up

by Cheryl Pervier



"All Catalina Fleet 69" has been cruising (day sailing, anchoring, rafting up, and over-nighting) on Lake Travis for over 45 years! This was once the Catalina 22 Fleet, until enough "graduated" to larger Catalinas and wanted to join us in a larger All-Catalina Fleet. A majority of Fleet 69 members belong to AYC and are active in our Club as well as in the cruising fleet.

Catalina sailboats are versatile in that they can be enjoyed for both racing and cruising. Several actively race in B-Fleet. They also like to cruise and "just go sailing." Almost every month the fleet has a cruise, in which we sail to a designated cove on Lake Travis and raft-up.

On a recent beautiful March day, we had a "St. Patrick's Day Cruise." We rafted-up in a cove just NW of Starnes Island. There were 10 boats and 39 sailors in all. After studying the lake contours and applying past experiences with underwater dock cables, four anchors were

successfully set in the middle to south side of the cove and retrieved afterwards. We had a feast of corned beef, cole slaw, and more, and enjoyed Irish music and the camaraderie of fellow sailors. It was a great day to be on the lake.

For more information, contact us or go to <https://www.catfleet69.org>.



Catalina Fleet 69 Raft-Up Photo by Millie Yap on a Catalina 22

Performance Racing Fleet Report

by Cass Meyer



PRF Changing of the Guard

The current Performance Racing Fleet is humbly and gratefully passing the torch to an eager and capable new batch of officers. A million thanks to the outgoing fleet of officers for all of your hard work and perseverance in making all of the events that the PRF puts on a success. We have continued to break even on the Friday Beer Can meals which is very

difficult when you can have between 5 and 25 boats on any given Friday. We have also continued to have over 30 boats in all of our Regattas; Red Eye, Single-Handed and Wild Turkey, and even showing a slight profit on these events.

Here is your new PRF Leadership:

PRF Captain: **James Carman Parsons**

Treasurer: **Matt Brown**

Secretary: **N/A**

Multihull Rep: **Chris Cherry**

A/B Fleet Captain: **Can Kalyoncuoglu**

The incoming officers will look at continuing the Independence Cup Regatta, support the organization of the Single-Handed Regatta, as well as continue the sisyphian task of growing interest in sailboat racing in a time of diminishing lake and increasing summer temperatures. They will also consider handing over the running of the Wild Turkey Regatta to the Race Commander, as an end of season event for the Club's series racing, and having AYC Beer Cans this year.

The PRF is an incredibly important part of our Club, as it is the most approachable and accessible way for new members and new sailors to learn about racing. We sail boats that are able to take more crew members than the smaller one-design boats, and are also used for casual cruising and as camping platforms. We sail long distance races

continued next page

that give new crew members a chance to ask questions and learn more about the decision-making process that is going through a skipper's mind, which is what racing boats is all about. I hope to see you all out on a Friday night racing, and enjoying our shared space throughout the summer. Hopefully we can schedule an impromptu flash flood party to watch our reservoir rise back to its previous heights so AYC can soar to new heights.

A & B Fleet Report Can Kalyoncuoglu



Welcome to the combined PHRF A & B Fleets: In 2024 racing season that was kicked off with the Opening Day, there are some changes:

1. PHRF fleets A and B are now starting together and may or may not be given different courses to sail. Please note that this also means that we will do Race Committee duty together as one fleet.
2. In addition, this racing season PRC has introduced a new FINISH method: Unlike previous several seasons where we started and finished at the Signal Boat, we now have one of the Chase Boats setting the Finish Line, setting the line with the pin to its port.

Please remember A Fleet is for boats PHRF 193 and faster and B Fleet is for boats PHRF 194 and above

Pleasantly surprising, it seems like we are building quite the Catalina 25 variety in the B fleet, all boats eager to get out there and race... We already have three now and the fourth one is on the way within the next month or so. Go C25 sailors, go...

This year I am trying to get a post-race social going for our combined A and B Fleets, so please stay tuned for fleet emails for details. If you have not been getting emails from me, please drop a note to me at ayc.phr.fleets@gmail.com and I will add you to the roster

As always, please let me know if and how I can help you to get out to sail and race more.... Need crew? Need rig tuning? Need a bit of race training/refreshers? Need help with the boat? We are a big Club with plenty of resources. Contact me via text/call/email and I will do my best to assist... Hope to see you out on the water!!!

Pearson 26 Fleet Report by Bill Records



Opening Day

Six Pearsons registered for Opening Day Regatta this year; JustUs (Chris & Abby Ryan), Jack of Hearts (Rich Ryon), Rusalka (Daniel Garces), Cafe au lait (Bill Records), Stealthy Cat (Emily Jakobeit), and Incognito (sailed by Mike Mash & Jen Loehlin).

The weather was good; cool temps & 12-20 kn.

The start was very competitive, with most of the fleet sailing east. JustUs was forced to tack and took a flyer to the west shore. That turned out well and when they tacked back, they were in the lead! The fleet stayed together except for Rusalka, whose dirty bottom slowed her down. JustUs and Cafe au lait traded tacks to the weather mark. JustUs's new North sails were not only beautiful but fast! On a



Opening Day – JustUs and Cafe au lait Photo by Marilyn Jackson

down wind leg, Jack of Hearts passed JustUs but on the next weather leg, failed to cover and was passed.

Spring Series

The Spring Series started with a whimper and race #1 was cancelled. On the eve of race #2, fierce thunderstorms crossed central Texas, but by morning things looked fine: 65 degrees, 10-15 kn. Five Pearsons showed up: JustUs, Rusalka, Incognito, Tacking Tiger Jibing Dragon,



David Suarez (skipper) with crew Matt Gibbons and Aram Salinas Photo by Bill Records

and MacGyver (David Suarez' first race) We were given a rather long course (D-5). After a competitive start, Incognito dialed up her usual speed and led wire-to-wire. I was sailing with David Suarez and by the second tack, the boat seemed slow! One of the crew noticed quite a bit of water sloshing around the cabin floor. David started pumping

the bilge pump and pumped out eight five-gallon buckets worth. Boat speed picked up for awhile until more water was seen in the cabin, more pumping! On the second leg to D, it started raining. More water! Why else could happen? After rounding D, the forestay went slack, A cotter pin holding the tack turnbuckle failed. Luckily, the spinnaker halyard was attached to the bow pulpit and kept the mast up. We then considered withdrawing, but crew, **Matt Gibbons**, ran forward and took a ring from his keychain. He inserted it in the clevis pin and we rejoined the race. By the way, Matt is a diesel mechanic and makes a living "fixing" things! Elsewhere on the course, JustUs and Rusalka were having quite a match race. Confusion regarding obstructions resulted in JustUs sailing a longer course and Rusalka finished ahead.

Since David's boat (1066) had no name, a gathering of Pearsons after the race offered suggestions. Murphy's Law came up but it was considered too negative. However, **Daniel Garces** suggested "MacGyver" since we had to MacGyver the boat around the course! We will call her "MacGyver" until further notice!

On March 23rd we had our fleet meeting where we discussed hosting the Single Handed Regatta on May 25th. We hope it will be as successful as last year's. Also, we are planning a dinner cruise to one of the lakeside restaurants. The beautiful spring weather should bring out more boats for the Spring Series.



Pearson 26 Spring Party Photo by Bill Records

AYC Teams Leave Their Mark in Sint Maartan

by Mike Beuerlein



In February, nearly 20 sailors from the Austin Yacht Club descended upon Sint Maartan for our annual winter pilgrimage racing Diam 24s around the island with old friends, exploring the restaurants & taking a break from "winter" in Austin. **Philippe Bettler** has been organizing this with France-native **Pierre Altier** for a number of years now and the two of them have really gotten it down pat. The island climate is predictably perfect, the Diam 24 sailboats are state of the art & well-maintained, Pierre's staff is top-notch.



We sailed as two teams last year but expanded to five AYC teams this year and that made it 2.5 times (5/2) as much fun as before.



Philippe & Pierre had circulated a list of required gear and a rough itinerary prior to the excursion so we mostly knew what to expect and were prepared. This is NOT your typical lay on the Caribbean beach with a cocktail type of trip. Most of the sailors brought their own crash helmets, impact vests, sun & chafe protection clothing, sailing gloves and racing electronics but, even still, some were surprised by the intensity. The first few days, we drilled from early in the morning until sunset with only a very brief pause for lunch on the water and then a debriefing session over lessons-learned until well past dark. We would be racing the locals on Sunday at the St. Maarten Yacht Club in a preparatory

regatta for the upcoming St. Maarten Heineken Regatta and Pierre wanted to ensure we didn't embarrass ourselves. He needn't have concerned himself; we'd find plenty of ways to embarrass ourselves despite his best intentions!

The five AYC teams making the trip this year were Team Humility (**Bill & Ryan Coon, Juke Ball**), Team Kersail (**Philippe Bettler, Michael Moran, Alex Larrouilh**), Team Salva Vida (**Bo Kersey, JT Cody, Jeff Hiller**), Team Salty Dogs (**Mike Rohrer, Russ Shermer, Jim Rehage**) & Team Wet Farts (**Mike Beuerlein, Dominic Ioime, Ethan Froelich**). We caught some grief for our name, but as captain, I knew we weren't really the shizzle; at best, we're merely shizzle-adjacent. On the other hand, we're not entirely a true sh*tstorm; more like a drizzle. A shizzle drizzle. Hence, the Wet Farts. A name like the "Sharks" or the "Pirates of the Caribbean" or some nonsense like that is not going to scare this batch of grizzled veterans but no one looks forward to having to battle the Wet Farts all day!

And wet is what you will get on a Diam 24! **Pierre** drilled it into us in our on-shore training sessions, on-board coaching and on the water instruction that the Diam 24 needs to be raced with crew weight as far forward and leeward as possible. The amas are designed to be wave-piercing, mostly shedding the water before it hits the forward crossbar but not always! There was plenty of spray even though the winds were not nearly so strong this year as last. There's a LOT of crew weight movement for trim and crew coordination needed for the numerous hoists, furls, gybes and dropping of the gennaker, furling and deployment of the jib, mast rotation, raising & dropping the daggerboard, gross & fine mainsheet so we were constantly scrambling all over the boat. The spray was a relief!

The copious practice starts, both to weather plus a few GP-style reaching starts, were all tightly contested. The numerous transitions needed to get around the course led to nearly continuous lead changes during the practice races and some small amount of bumping. Diam 24s move considerably faster than even our usual trimarans and close distances quicker than you'd imagine. It was a hoot running windward/leeward legs in fresh breeze, in front of Grand Bay's cruise ships, 12M charters, sundry barge traffic and amongst all the denizens of Phillipsburg's boardwalk. We then did a practice long-distance race on Saturday from Great Bay up to Ile Tintamarre and were able to cover the distance faster than the wives who accompanied us were able to make it by car. **Pierre and his team** met us there with an authentic French picnic and plenty of cold beer. We got to hike, snorkel and enjoy the various wildlife in the marine nature preserve there. A couple of the women then joined us for the race back and, as always, it was tightly contested despite nearly everyone getting to take a turn at every different role onboard.



continued next page



Sunday's racing in Simpson Bay at the St. Maarten Yacht Club regatta was very well attended by eight local teams (4 Diam 24s) in addition to the five Texas teams. It's always a fun challenge to navigate a race course through a mass of superyachts lying at anchor. While the Wet Farts spurted out to an early lead in the first race, Merlin and Kersail were able to catch us by the first turning mark and from there extended their leads through to the finish. Salva Vida proved more than a match for the locals and the rest of the Texas fleet yet none of them were able to overcome the Wet Farts. Race two was more of the same with tactical starting and boat handling skills rewarded and mistakes like deploying the screecher prior to rounding the windward mark severely punished. The skuttlebutt is true; the Wet Farts fouled themselves. Thankfully, **Pierre and his team** were close at hand to repair any/all equipment failures. Race three was a real nail-biter with Merlin & Wet Farts rounding the weather mark well in the lead of the other AYC ringers & locals. However, Kersail devoured the distance and were in the process of rounding the leeward mark as they overtook us. An unfortunate furling mishap befell them and we nipped them at the finish. The PRO seemed greatly amused to announce the final result: Merlin, Kersail, Wet Farts, Salva Vida, locals & AYC intermixed. Pierre was ecstatic that his Texas students had bested the locals. He also had five of his charter boats already rigged and tested prior to the Heineken Regatta the following weekend. Everyone left happy!



On Monday & Tuesday before our flights out, we rented a jeep and explored the French side of the island. We'd heard there were excellent food & sightseeing opportunities and we weren't disappointed. All of us can't wait to return next year for more adventures!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AYC BUSINESS HOURS

Wednesday - Sunday 9:00A - 5:00P
CLOSED MONDAY AND TUESDAY
Clubhouse Hours 9:00A - 10:00P

Closed Club Holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1
Easter Sunday	March 31
Independence Day	July 4
Thanksgiving Day	November 28
Shopping Day	November 29
Christmas Day	December 25

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AYC 2024 Race Calendar

SEISA Open and Womens Team/Fleet Racing	04/05-07
Lucky Charm Regatta	04/06
Spring Series (Sundays)	04/07, 14, 21, 28; 05/5
SEISA Championships – Mallory/Baker Qualifier	04/12-14
Beer Can Races start (Fridays)	04/19
UT Sailing Team Alumni Regatta	04/27

Upcoming Regattas

UT Sailing Team Alumni Regatta	04/27
Governor's Cup	05/18-19
Single-Handed Regatta	05/25
Centerboard Regatta	10/05-06
Round the Bend/MultiFest Regatta	10/26-27
Wild Turkey Regatta	11/23

Upcoming Series Races

Spring Series (Sundays)	04/07, 14, 21, 28; 05/05
Summer Series (Saturdays)	06/01, 08, 15, 22, 29; 07/13, 20
Fall Series (Sundays)	09/15, 22, 29; 10/13, 20; 11/03, 10

AYC April 2024 Non-Racing Events

North U Performance Racing Clinic	04/08-12	8:00am-8:00pm
AYC Bearings Meeting	04/15	6:30-8:30pm
Dana McGehee Lappin Memorial	04/19	4:00-8:00pm
ASA 101 Public Classes	04/20-21	8:30am-5:30pm
AYC Board of Directors Meeting	04/25	7:30-9:30pm
ASA IQC for Instructors	04/26-27	NEED INFO
Beginning Sailing – Session 1	04/27-28	9:00am-Noon
Dock Improvement Party	04/27	9:00am-1:00pm

Youth Sailing

Opti 1 Saturday Group Practice	04/06, 13, 20, 27	8:00am-Noon
Opti 2 Intro to Green Fleet	04/06, 13, 20, 27	1:00-5:00pm
Opti 3 Advanced Green Fleet/RBW	04/03, 07*, 10, 14*, 17, 21*, 24, 28*	5:00-8:00pm *1:00-5:00pm
ILCA Team Practice	04/07, 14, 21, 28	8:00am-Noon
High School A-Team Practice	04/03, 05, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26	5:00-8:00pm
High School B-Team Practice	04/04, 06*, 11, 13*, 18, 20*, 25, 27*	5:00-8:00pm *8:00am-Noon
Middle/HS Intro to Sailing	04/06, 13, 20, 27	8:00am-Noon