

Jan. 1989

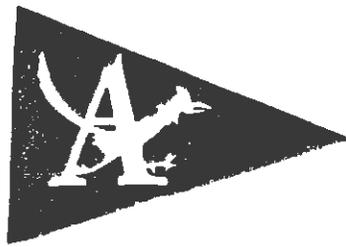
# Telltale

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A U S T I N \* Y A C H T \* C L U B

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# AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

5906 BEACON DRIVE

LAKE TRAVIS

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D-FLEET -----	LARRY RATLIFF
LASER -----	FRED SCHROTH
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SUNFISH -----	VIC MANNING

BUSINESS OFFICE ... 266-1336  
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JANUARY 1989



## FROM THE COMMODORE \_\_\_\_\_

As I look forward to the new year I'm excited by the opportunities and the challenges facing our club and this year's Board of Directors.

Many of these opportunities have been created by last year's board and our outgoing Commodore Claude Welles. The challenge is to advance programs already begun. The Harbor Fund created last summer has provided the financing and the planning for our harbor upgrade. Our task this year will be to finish the welding and planking on our new Dock # 2 and to commission it and a new Dock # 1 by year's end.

Another challenge is to build on the success of last year's Junior Sailing Program and create a self-funding program capable of instilling a love of sailing, a respect for safety and a pride of belonging in our next generation of AYC members.

A further opportunity in 1989 is to continue our excellence in competitive sailing. In 1988 we had four teams in USYRU National Finals, and another four teams in Olympic Trials, with one going to the Olympics. To maintain that standard in 1989 we will need dedicated competitors who have the full support of the rest of us.

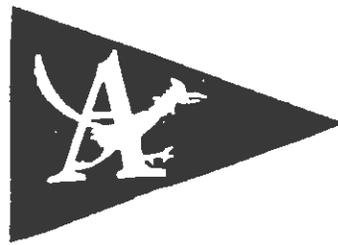
The changing Austin economy and three consecutive years of declining membership presents us with special difficulties to overcome. This year we must dedicate ourselves to promote both our sport of yacht racing and membership in the Yacht Club. The financial and social welfare of our club require a vigorous, active roster of members. I encourage all of you to introduce your sailing friends and crew to the joys and benefits of membership. A further challenge in 1989 will be to continue the high standards of maintenance to our buildings, grounds and docks, and to sustain a high level of support for our club programs and membership activities during a time of falling revenues.

The recent member survey and volunteer preference form was completed by nearly two-thirds of the membership. It revealed a desire in the membership to keep costs down and showed a strong response in the volunteer survey. The two go hand in hand. When you have to do more with less, you need volunteers. I call on each of you to support your club and your favorite activities by volunteering your time and talents.

Please feel free to call me or any of the board members with suggestions for keeping our costs down and our activities up.

We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging 1989 and the many opportunities for success it will bring.

Terry Meyers, Commodore



FROM THE EDITOR ...

TELLTALE STAFF

COMMODORE .....	TERRY MEYERS
EDITOR .....	WAYNE McEWEN
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT .....	VICKI BREMER

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS

SHIRLEY SLAUGHTER	TERI NELMS
VIC MANNING	VICKI BREMER

FLEET CONTRIBUTORS

MIKE CHAMBERS, LAUREN VICKNAIR, MEL KUNZE, BOB JOHNSON,  
PHIL SPLETTER, GREG SCHERTZ, HOWARD SHIREY, TERI NELMS



COVER

BILL RECORDS (photo of Anne Ellzey in her new Pearson 26)

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# OFF THE WATER

## with your Cheer Chair

by Vicki Bremer

What a fantastic year! And the success of our social program is credited to all of YOU -- those of you who volunteered your free time to put on the events and those of you who partook in the festivities. We couldn't have done it without YOU!!

Now, didn't I promise you the best Annual Banquet ever! KATHY PILLMORE deserves our heartfelt thanks for all the work she put into this gala event which she started planning way back last February. And her efforts showed! The beautifully decorated 16th penthouse floor at the Radisson (thanks to Kathy's creative talents and ability to beg, borrow, and steal needed props!) was topped only by the sparkle of more than 200 party-goers. And what a handsome/gorgeous crowd! The award recipients were greeted with enthusiastic applause for their efforts that earned them the award. And that's what this annual celebration is all about -- honoring those who help make AYC one of the best sailing clubs around. (With the Blue Duck award thrown in to show that even sailors have a sense of humor!) Dancing to the music of Cul de Sac topped the evening's festivities. And many party-goers chose to take advantage of the discounted room rates in order to enjoy the wonderful Sunday brunch offered at the Radisson. Kathy is already thinking about those things she would change for next year's party to make it even better. Does that mean we'd be lucky enough to get Kathy to tackle this enormous responsibility again? If so, 1989 is off to a terrific start!

Our year-end social activities also included a special Christmas party for the children and for those who think young (most of our membership, you say?!). Janis Livingston graciously volunteered (yes, volunteered!) to chair this event and did an outstanding job according to the reports I've been getting. But then that's been the best part of being 1988's Cheer Chair -- people like Janis who volunteered to chair an event she had never chaired before, who asked me for advice and got a "Duh, I don't know nuttin' about it either," and who put on a successful event in spite of it! Thank you, from all of us, Janis and helpers!!

The two remaining events this year -- an AYC Social Reception on December 29 honoring our champion sailors and Teri Nelms' New Year's Eve celebration at the club -- will end what has been a successful social year. And I'll pass on the Cheer Chair cap to CHARLENE ALLAN who has already proven her talents in the social

Cheer Chair Report (cont'd)

arena. The success of last year's Opening Day Ceremonies was due to Charlene's efforts -- of which I owe her a special (and belated!) thank you for kicking off our social season with such style. And Charlene's creative and organizational talents were readily shared by those chairpeople who dared ask for her assistance "just one more time." With a track record like that, we can't help but have the best social season ever in 1989. And I know I can count on all of you helping in whatever way you can.

But don't cheer my absence yet! I'll still be hanging around and will probably be involved in other AYC projects of one sort or another. And I'd like to get more serious about racing my Sunfish -- looking at a few foredecks instead of always someone's transom!

I can't sign out of my Cheer Chair post, however, without a special thank you to the crew who helped make my job easy.

Charlene Allan -- who started our official club activities in great style with the Opening Day Ceremonies.

Jan & John Brewer -- who provided pizza and jukebox music to entertain the troops at the Warm-Up Series Buffet.

Teri Nelms -- who bravely endured every shigella joke known to man only to have to face her Dinner Cruise experience again when presented the Blue Duck award at the Annual Banquet; and for being brave (??) enough to tackle the New Year's Eve party.

Steve Spademan -- who thought he could beat Mother Nature this year -- and did! -- with a successful Chicken Fajita buffet after the Spring Series.

Carol & Bob Tesch/Jane & Steve Frederick -- who brought Hawaii to Texas with a Luau we'll remember for a long, long time.

Sam Humphrey -- who will be forever famous for his marvelous cold shrimp buffet after the Summer Evening Series.

Barry Bowden -- who made a lot of AYC family members happy (and one Cheer Chair!) with his Family Day festivities.

Nancy & Mark Johnson -- who planned so well that not a drop of chili was left after the Fall Series Buffet.

James Pinno -- who dared to be different (!) with his clam chowder after the Winter Series -- a big hit!

## CHEER CHAIR REPORT (cont'd)

Kathy Pillmore -- who leapt tall buildings with a single bound to put on this year's Annual Banquet.

Janis Livingston -- who took on an event with no budget, during the holiday rush, to make a lot of AYC children happy at this year's Christmas Party.

Claude Welles (the man to whom I couldn't say NO) -- who endured duties above and beyond those experienced by any commodore, anywhere, ever.

Wayne McEwen -- who made me look good by guiding the social chairpeople through every event and who stood by me when the going got tough.

Fred Schroth -- who can brighten anyone's day by just being Fred, for not taking life too seriously, and for advising others the same.

### SLAUGHTER LEFTWICH Winery

A special thanks to the folks at the new Slaughter Leftwich Winery, 4209 Eck Lane, who graciously donated part of the wine served at our Dec. 29 Social Reception honoring our champion sailors. The winery can be visited every Sat. and Sun., 1-5 p.m. (From June to Sept. the winery is open Tues.-Sun., 1-6 p.m.) Call 266-3332 for scheduling special group tours. And take the time to visit our new neighbors!



### FLORALS & FLOURISHES

Thanks to Nancy Natho and her new floral arrangement business, the tables at our Dec. 29 Social Reception were graced in style. If you want a centerpiece or arrangement that is above and beyond the ordinary, give Nancy a call at 482-8101.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE AYC SKI LODGE

by Teri Nelms

What can I say? There was a major melt-down on our ski slopes, but we had the party anyway. Sixty skiers showed for the affair where they were treated to a lodge atmosphere which included a Lakeway moosehead hanging over the fireplace, an array of boots, skis and poles, and a chairlift that extended from the balcony to the flag pole. Fortunately, no one was drunk enough to actually try out the lift (Hap wasn't there), but we couldn't locate the lift tickets anyway. Prizes were awarded to those who were dressed for the parts, which included JANE FREDERICK, the best Ski Bunny; BOB PILLMORE, the best Ski Bum; DAVE GAGE, the best Slope Groper, and PAM JAWISH, a visitor who floated around the dance floor in a lacy white dress, got the best Snow Flake award. A prize was also given to GAIL BERNSTEIN, our token female Board member who was the ONLY BOARD MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE!!! (All Board members are REQUIRED to attend ALL functions ... regardless. After all, TERRY MEYERS had just come in from a ski trip so he would have even been appropriately dressed ... shame on you, Commodork.) The prizes were generously donated by ROD MALONE and Sail and Ski. They included ski rental packages, goggles, gloves and handwarmers. The Groper got the warmers so he wouldn't have cold hands while groping. Thank you Rod; we all appreciate it!! My special thanks go out to ANNE ELLZEY who did a wonderful breakfast that consisted of sausage, an onion quiche, and tons of homemade (by Anne) pumpkin and banana bread. VIC and PAT MANNING and DAVE and JUDY GAGE did the decorations, and the moosehead was loaned by TOM WOOD. One visitor commented, after seeing the moose, that he could certainly understand why our members were sailors and not hunters. Sorry, Tom, at least I didn't tell him who it belonged to. JOHN SAUNDERS was our main clean-up man. And we had a D.J. who played an excellent selection of C&W (you missed it, Ed Halter) and rock 'n roll with no piano music. Our visitors from town, who are members of a local push dance group and two instructors, gave us all a good showing of an interesting dance style. The Board gave me a budget of \$500 with specific instructions of "don't spend any of it." I have no idea if we came out at the top of the slope or the bottom money-wise, but we all had a great time regardless. See? I CAN have a party without everybody getting sick!

WINTER SERIES RESULTS

Keel Fleet A (avg. 9 boats)

1. Steve Vaughan, Olson 30
2. Bob Tesch, J-29
3. Russell Painton, J-29
4. Gail Bernstein, J-29

Keel Fleet B (avg. 5 boats)

1. Claude Welles, Cal 9.2
2. Mike Chambers, Olson 25
3. Frank Riha, Cal 9.2

Keel Fleet C (avg. 10 boats)

1. Trenton Wann, SJ 7.7
2. Paul Horton, Mustang 22
3. John Vance, Pearson 26
4. Ray Shull, SJ 7.7

Keel Fleet D (avg. 6 boats)

1. Kathy Pillmore, Ranger 22
2. Perry Weller, S2 7.3
3. Hal Hayden, Cat. 25

Centerboards (avg. 5 boats)

1. Salvador Aguirre, Capri 14.2
2. Tom Romberg, M-20
3. Tom Gunderson, M-20

J-24 (avg. 7 boats)

1. John Schmidt
2. John Mandell
3. Tucker Garrison

South Coast 21 (avg. 5 boats)

1. Danny Lien
2. Bud Boucher
3. Bob Freeman

Ensign (avg. 5 boats)

1. Harold Neel
2. Tommy Kozlowski
3. Dan O'Donnell

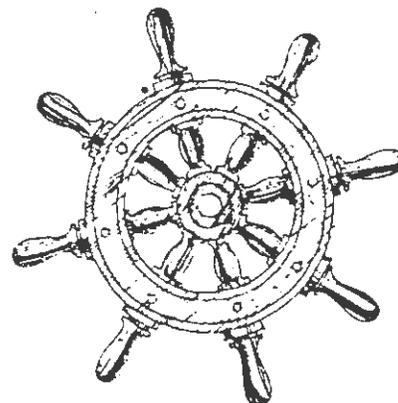
Catalina 22 (avg. 5 boats)

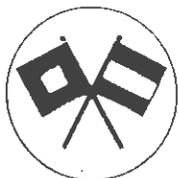
1. Steve Pervier
2. Joe Roddy
3. Walter Allan

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COLOR PICTURES, TAKEN BY A PROFESSIONAL  
PHOTOGRAPHER, ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS  
SERIES. CALL TERI NELMS AT 266-1494 IF  
YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ENLARGEMENTS.

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## JUNIOR PROGRAM

by Vic Manning

Last year at AYC our Youth Camp and Junior Program were a tremendous success. The kids were enthusiastic; they had a great time, made new friends and learned a lot. Look around the harbor and you will often see some of the young people at the helm of a variety of boats these days.

This year's Junior Program is going to be more exciting than last year's. A Council is being formed to set training criteria, develop training standards and oversee the instructors who are providing the training. More information on this program will be available as the Council forms in the next couple of months.

Some aspects of the Youth Camp and Junior Program will be boat certification, insuring that juniors know how to check out boats and return them in proper condition and the proper care of borrowed boats. Presently AYC only has Optimist prams and the UT 420's available to be checked out. Plans are being considered to purchase 5-10 good, used boats, like Sunfish, that will be available for use by certified juniors. The Centerboard Fleet has already started generating funds through the after-race dinners. Additional funds will be required to purchase boats so a variety of projects will be developed to provide the money needed. Suggestions and ideas are needed. Volunteers are needed!

To expand the Junior Program, training and events other than Summer Camp are needed. The Centerboard fleets have joined together and agreed to help interested junior sailors by providing instruction, guidance, and to be available to juniors who want to improve their sailing skills. The Centerboard Fleet will hold training sessions on Saturdays and junior sailors are welcome.

We at AYC are blessed with an abundance of talented sailors who have come out of previous programs. Some have become Olympic contenders and national champions in class boats as well as team champions. That type of expertise does not happen overnight, but often Junior Programs are the beginning. And they provide our next crews, competitors, contenders and champions at AYC and beyond.

The Junior Program already has the support and help of many talented sailors, but it needs much more. It needs the interest, support and cooperation of parents and others who are willing to be involved. We encourage your ideas and suggestions on this subject. If you would like more information or can provide ideas, recommendations and suggestions or want to volunteer, please contact either of the following:

VIC MANNING -- Sunfish Fleet Captain  
TERI NELMS -- Centerboard Fleet Captain

"I CAN'T BELIEVE I MISSED THE PARTY ..."

by Teri Nelms for Caroline Howard

At the Annual Banquet and Awards Presentation, the Corinthian Woman Sailor Trophy was presented to Caroline Howard ... who didn't show for the party. In fact, it was over a week after the awards before she even found out about it. It seems that Caroline was busy hanging out in a local hospital fooling around with chemo-therapy and radiation treatments when she should have been at the Radisson with all of her sailing buddies. When I called to congratulate her for her award, as she was checking out of the hospital, her reply to my comments was, "What? What trophy? Nobody told me I got a trophy. Are you sure? ..." Her husband, Bill, told her, "Well, Caroline, I've known about it ever since the banquet and there were probably a dozen times that I could have told you, but you wouldn't have remembered it. So I figured I'd wait until you got home ..."

To say the least, Caroline was very touched and terribly disappointed that she could not have been at the party to receive it. She told me that she had always hoped she would receive an award of some sort for sailing because she had an acceptance speech rolling around in the back of her mind that would give her an opportunity to express her love of sailing. Well, Caroline, you skipped the party, so what better way to make your speech than in the Telltale.

I want to thank the Austin Yacht Club for presenting me the Corinthian Woman Sailor Trophy. I am deeply honored to receive it. Ever since I was 11 years old, sailing has been my joy. I started out on an all wooden Snipe.

My first adult friends came from this fleet which included Eddie and Eleanor Williams, my chaperones, and Ted Wells and John Hayward, both of whom were international Snipe champions. Mr. Hayward was my skipper and teacher for several years and stressed to me that you never sailed in any way which would dishonor your boat, i.e., you never dropped out, even if you were last; you kept your fouls to a minimum as well as your foul calls. In short, you were a lady or a gentleman participating hard in a gallant sport. I have always been proud to say that I am a sailor and have always been proud of my sailing friends. Thank you for this wonderful trophy.

Caroline and Bill own a Columbia 9.6, STARWIND, which Caroline dearly loves to race. She helms the boat and, as Bill grudgingly admits, is the skipper in all races. While it usually takes a

I CAN'T BELIEVE I MISSED THE PARTY ... (cont'd)

major storm to get a boat of that size moving, Caroline still has campaigned it in several series races. Distance races are preferred and Turnback is a natural for it. Caroline is a dynamic lady, a past AYC Board member, a figure skater in her "younger days," and a snow skier even as we speak. I can't think of a better person to have received this award. I saw her in the vicinity of the race course on New Year's Day steering the boat, of course, with a promise that we'll all see her back out on the lake more often as her health improves.

Glad to have you back, Caroline!!!

1988 WINNERS OF SPECIAL AWARDS AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET

JIMMY B. CARD MEMORIAL TROPHY -- KEITH LACKEY (To the Club senior sailor, new to the sport. This trophy is to recognize the beginning sailor who enthusiastically, bravely, and with a real zest and enjoyment for life becomes a reasonably competitive sailor in their first or second year of sailing.)

JESSIE McILROY SMITH BOWL -- BILL DRAHEIM (To the Club junior or senior sailor who has made an outstanding contribution or achievement in yachting beyond the Club level or normal club activities.)

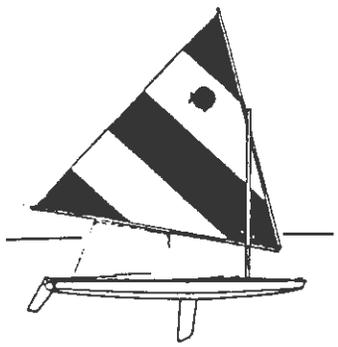
MAX WHITE MEMORIAL TROPHY -- JOHN SAUNDERS (To the Club senior member for outstanding service to the Club in the past year.)

LIZ BAUMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY -- NICOLE MANNING (To the most improved female junior sailor.)

CORINTHIAN WOMAN SAILOR TROPHY -- CAROLINE HOWARD (To a woman sailor exhibiting traditional corinthian traits. This trophy is given annually to a woman who is an individual or family member who has exhibited good sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and participation, thereby making an overall contribution to the enhancement of the sport of competitive sailing.)

OL' SALT OF THE AUSTIN YACHT CLUB -- HAP ARNOLD (To the Club senior sailor who has exhibited enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and a competitive zeal over a period of time, and has a quality of life that can be admired by all.)

BLUE DUCK TROPHY -- TERI NELMS (Most outstanding blooper.)



## SEVENTY-FOUR SUNFISH CHAMPIONS ... AND ME!

by Shirley Slaughter

From the 1987 Wurstfest Regatta on Canyon Lake to the 1988 Sunfish Worlds in the Bahamas -- traveling Sunfish style captured memories I shall never forget. Through my membership in the Sunfish Class Association (plug!), I learned of a wild card drawing to be held and, on a lark, sent in my application. Thinking I would never win, I went ahead and scheduled some needed major surgery. And upon returning home from having blood tests done at the lab, I found a letter in the mail that said I had won! After 10 minutes deliberation, I called my doctor to ask if I could be in condition to compete in the Sunfish Worlds after having my surgery. As far as I was concerned, nothing could help me more than doing one of the things I like best -- sailing a Sunfish in beautiful waters. Being born under the Aquarius sign probably has something to do with that. And so I was off to the Bahamas!

But I didn't leave home without my own rudder which has the extra long hiking stick I need because of my short stature. And I will admit to being homesick the first day. But my 8th floor hotel room overlooking the water along with all the activities and new friends I had met and were still meeting sure helped.

Getting the boat rigged proved to be more work than just putting on my rudder, hoisting the sail, and shoving off for a day of racing. As we registered we were given a ticket to give to the Harbor Master for our boat. He pulled my boat, still in its box, off a railroad car, slit it open and said, "Here's your boat." I thanked him half-heartedly, walked around the boat a few times trying to decide what to do first, and then went to work. Lucky for me, my boat happened to be placed next to a very nice and very helpful competitor, Will White, Class Measurer, twice a national champion in the 60's, and author of The Sunfish Book. Will helped me install some of the rigging, and everyone took turns shoving my boat on and off the shore each day. Sunfish sailors are the same friendly, fun-loving people everywhere. I didn't meet a single prima donna the entire time!

The vastness of the water on Montague Bay -- all the way to the horizon -- intimidated me somewhat, but I just tried not to think about it. The mile-long legs on the 6-mile course, along with sailing a mile each way to the starting line twice a day, made for a tiring day. But I was determined to do it. And out on the course when I felt I was losing my competitive edge because no one was in sight, someone would appear out of the blue to perk up my spirits. The water was cool, crystal clear, 2-20 feet deep, salty (ugh!) and the most beautiful turquoise color. The 2-4 foot swells, big chop, current, and winds all moved in different directions making it difficult to judge the favored tacks and favored side of the course.

## SUNFISH WORLDS (cont'd)

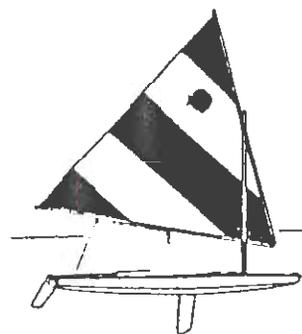
The winds the first two days of the four-day regatta were a steady 10-15, and it was all I could do to hold the boat down. A tornado touched down once which made the wind disappear on one side of the course while producing 25+ winds on the other side followed by a light rain.

The starting line was very long, and the starts were very quiet. No one yelled and only an occasional "up, up, up" would softly break the silence. There were only about five protests the whole regatta which were posted on a board each day -- with most of them against the Race Committee. One protest made in the 6th (of 8 total races) was against the Race Committee for starting the race one minute early. Because that race was disqualified, we had to race three races on the last day -- two back-to-back and the third after a 30-minute lunch break at the starting line. Being on the water from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. that day would've been a little too much for me so I withdrew from the last two races. During the last race of the last day the wind died, and some competitors had to be towed in after dark. But after taking my boat all apart and putting it back into the box, I enjoyed the luxury of swimming in a beautiful pool at the Royal Nassau Sailing Club while the others struggled with the swells and chop and no wind. And inbetween laps in the pool, while eating a typical fast-food style lunch, I thought I must be sitting on top of the world!

Traveling to the Bahamas, competing in the Sunfish Worlds, and meeting so many wonderful people was an experience of a lifetime. And I can boast that I didn't finish last! But I almost won the trophy for being the oldest-in-age-but-youngest-at-heart competitor. Probably the most important thing I learned from the trip, however, was the realization that through the years other boats will come and go for me, but the SUNFISH will always be there no matter what my age. Everyone needs one!

After returning home from my experience at the Sunfish Worlds, it was off to the 1988 Wurstfest Regatta on Canyon Lake where I raced with 31 Sunfish enthusiasts -- 12 of them from Fleet 70 in Austin. But that's another story for another time. Happy sailing!

# SUNFISH



## RED-EYE REGATTA RESULTS

### SPINNAKER

#### KEEL FLEET A

1. Jim Draheim, J-35
2. Steve Vaughan, Olson 30
3. Russell Painton, J-29
4. Gail Bernstein, J-29

#### KEEL FLEET B

1. Tom Lott, Lindenberg 26
2. Claude Welles, Cal 9.2
3. Roy Smith, J-24
4. Eric Nelson, J-24

#### KEEL FLEET C

1. Ray Shull, SJ 7.7
2. Jim Deeter, Cat. 27
3. Dave Wahlberg, Kiwi 24
4. Tim Vicknair, Spirit 28

#### KEEL FLEET D

1. Bud Boucher, SC-21
2. Harold Neel, Ensign
3. Bob Freeman, SC-21
4. Bob Pillmore, Ranger 22

### NON-SPINNAKER

#### KEEL FLEET A

1. Frank Riha, Cal 9.2
2. Steve Brown, J-22
3. John Saunders, J-22
4. Bill Mitchell, J-22

#### KEEL FLEET B

1. Duane Dobson, SC-21
2. Anne Ellzey, Pearson 26
3. Stan LaCroix, Hunter 25
4. Jim Casto, Kiwi 22



## THE BLUE DUCK QUACKS

by Teri Nelms

I have been asked, "Why did you accept the Blue Duck without even a comment? We all expected to hear some pretty strong denials," etc. Well, good grief, I have never seen a Blue Duck recipient yet who was allowed to say more than two words before he was relieved of the microphone. Besides, it will be easier to comment from the Telltale. THANKS A LOT, YOU BIG BUNCH OF UNGRATEFUL SLOBS! I will repeat once again: this is a mistake. WOMEN do not win this award. MEN are the only ones who do stupid things in plain view of others. And as for my good neighbors, Walter and Charlene Allan, I can only say that paybacks are hell and always come when you least expect them. I did send them a formal thank-you note, typed on a roll of toilet paper, for all their efforts which included the production of a gold-painted toilet paper roll necklace. Walter's nomination was presented in poem form, and I naturally have responded in the same fashion. What follows is Walter's nomination "speech" and my response. No further comment is necessary.

### NOMINATION FOR THE BLUE DUCK AWARD

DICTIONARY DEFINITION: Shigella (shi-gel'e) n., Any of a various nonmotile rod-shaped bacteria that causes dysentery.

Rod-shaped bacteria ... so that's what laid more than 200 people up in bed for one to three weeks. A rod-shaped bacteria! Speaking of the shaft!

And speaking of nonmotility, this rod stayed around for quite sometime. It didn't want to move out of its host. However, we can't blame our program chairperson for the Shigella shuffle; she only knows country-western. But being the objective person she is, she thought everyone should learn a new dance at the Captain's Club. Since everyone knows how to do the fox trot, the shigella trot is quite appropriate.

### SHIGELLA SHUFFLE

Into the harbor of Captain's Club  
cruised AYC's famished.  
After dinner and drinks,  
several people vanished.

Now, the food was fair,  
washed down with some wine.  
But why were so many people  
in the restroom line?

Could it be the iced tea?  
was the big question,  
'Cause our insides were crying  
for a new direction.

SHIGELLA SHUFFLE (cont'd)

Hours later, our bowels aflame,  
who was at fault, and who was to blame?  
Was it the water or the homemade stew?  
It had to be something that made you poo!

Many became closer to their  
porcelain friend,  
as they agonized avengence to  
the bitter end.

Our vocabulary has lengthened with  
this new word SHIGELLA,  
but I have to tell you ... it didn't  
impress this fella.

So Chairchick Nelms, don't act so  
surprised, we're on to you!  
We knew you didn't eat that  
terrible stew.

So with no more fanfare and  
further ado, there's a very  
strong feeling that the  
Blue Duck's for you.

TERI NELM'S RESPONSE FOLLOWS:

THE DINNER CRUISE

I know it was not my fault,  
but "not so" according to Walt.

I tried to plan a fun party,  
but the end results were all farty.

I intended to have it amuse you,  
but all the food did was abuse you.

The phone calls I got were all rude.  
Like Max asked, "Who shit in the food?"

I guess I must have all the luck,  
'cause now I have the Blue Duck.

It's nice to know you can ha-ha  
over something that really is ca-ca.

THE DINNER CRUISE (cont'd)

The dinner cruise I'll plan for this spring  
will only have food that you bring.  
Some sailors and water won't mix here  
so you bring your own cokes or drink beer.

But I still say that "I didn't do it" ...  
That's my story, and I'm sticking to it ...

In conclusion, I would like to say that if you thought this year's Dinner Cruise was a real bash, just wait until '89! We will go either to Sometimes Island, raft up and have the Pizza Hut cater it, or we'll all go to the Captain's Club with sack lunches and bottled water. I'm sure you can hardly wait.



1988 AWARD WINNERS HONORED AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET

(\* = Pick up your gift in the AYC office.)

David Balfour\*  
Danny Lien\*  
M.L. Painton  
Roy Smith\*  
Vicki Bremer  
Barry Bowden\*  
Carol Tesch  
Teri Nelms  
Vic & Pat Manning  
Tim Erwin  
David Wahlberg\*  
Pam McDonald  
Cynthia Darwin  
Curtis Tarpley\*  
Wayne McEwen  
Bill Word\*  
Steve Brown\*  
Mike Chambers  
Frank Riha  
Bob Pillmore  
David Brenner  
Bruce McDonald  
Hap McCollum  
Frans Dahmen\*  
Dave Gage  
Rod Ethridge  
John Bartlett  
Steve Vaughan  
Steve Spademan\*  
Nancy & Mark Johnson  
Kay Sousares\*  
Chris Pratt\*  
Bill & Heather Morack\*  
Greg Schertz  
Craig Holmes  
Mark Rylander\*  
Harold Neel  
Tom George\*  
Dave Broadway\*  
Mike Eitelman\*  
Frank McBee\*  
Kathy Thorstad\*  
Pat Calogero\*

David Henderson\*  
Eric Nelson  
John Saunders  
Danny Wight  
Charlene Allan  
Kathy Pillmore  
Jane Frederick  
Janis Livingston  
Shirley Slaughter  
John Erickson\*  
Bruce & Claudia Foster  
Howard & Martie Shirey  
Brad Schwab\*  
Debbie Kerr  
John Mandell  
Louie Soefje\*  
Ann Baylor  
Gary Griffith\*  
Fred Schroth  
Terry Schertz  
Bob Tesch  
Dick Finnegan\*  
Tommy Kozlowski  
Jim Deeter  
Bob Kier  
Craig Tapley\*  
Jane Ashby\*  
Jan & John Brewer\*  
Sam Humphrey\*  
James Pinno  
Sandy Pardue\*  
Michal Wann\*  
Lee DeKeyser\*  
Doug Woodward  
Terry Meyers  
Bud Boucher\*  
Dan O'Donnell\*  
Pete Shough\*  
Fred Schroth  
Jeff Hart\*  
Tim Erwin  
Ginny DeGinder\*  
Vic Manning

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU FOR HELPING MAKE 1988 ONE OF THE BEST!!!

# \* FLEET TALK \*

## KEEL B

by Mike Chambers

"Free at last; free at last." This is my last Telltale article. It has been a fun and busy year. Fleet participation was up slightly from '87, but I think we could have more boats in '89. I would like to see more Merit 25's and people who raced in previous years. If we had a big enough fleet maybe we wouldn't have to start with "A" fleet. You haven't lived until you have been rolled over by a J-35. I think it would be a good idea if we could all show up to race a particular series (maybe all but Claude Welles and Tom Lott!). Someone needs to tell Claude that since he isn't Commodore anymore he can't win all of the races! At least Tom Lott breaks his boat every once and a while and misses some races. All kidding aside, it is great to have such accomplished sailors in our fleet to learn from.

We had good turnouts on all of our race committee duties. Our fleet had more race duty details than any other. I am proud to announce that our fleet won the race management award for the Winter Series. A special thanks to everyone who helped lead me through race committee duty. It made my job easy with so many experienced people in our fleet. Also thanks to all of the newer members who worked on race committee.

I have nominated Bob Goldsmith for the new fleet captain. Bob has been an active participant these past two years along with his entire family. I think he will make an excellent fleet captain. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. We will have a brief meeting and vote just before the keel fleet meeting begins. I don't have a date yet for that meeting, so be looking for it in the club flyers or maybe even in this Telltale.

See y'all at the lake.

## KEEL C

THE COMPLETE C-FLEET

by Lauren Vicknair

This year's Winter Series could have been renamed "Fall Series Part II" due to lack of seasonal rain and relatively high temperatures. C-fleet continued to be highly represented at the starting line of each race. The wind was shifting or was preoccupied elsewhere most of the races. However, the high point of the series may have been when a weak Northern blew in pushing last place boats to the front of the pack. Winners of this 5-race series were TRENTON WANN, 1st place; PAUL HORTON, 2nd place; JOHN VANCE, 3rd place, and RAY SHULL, 4th place. The Winter Series Buffet was headed by our own JAMES PINNO who served his great homemade clam chowder, ham and swiss sandwiches with tomato chutney while we dined to the sensuous tunes by the Julie Burrell Band.

The Wild Turkey Regatta featured crisp weather complete with white caps and a good turnout of stuffed sailors. It was a perfect autumn day. Here's hoping the trophies didn't cause any hangovers to skipper or crew of first place TIM VICKNAIR, 2nd place DAVE WAHLBERG, and 3rd place JOHN VANCE. The Junior Sailing Club served a hot meal afterwards which was greatly appreciated by all.

JIM DEETER chaired the Red-Eye Warm-Up Regatta and managed the race committee with the help of JACK and VICKI BREMER, GARY COOPER, PENNY HERNDON, and COLLEEN WARING. There were two categories of C-fleeters: spinnaker and non-spinnaker. In the spinnaker division DAVE WAHLBERG placed first, RAY SHULL second, BUD BOUCHER third, and HAL HAYDEN fourth. In the non-spinnaker division TIM VICKNAIR placed first, VERN HARRIS second, KNOX KEY third, and CHARLIE MUSTA fourth. Frito pie was served by

KEEL FLEET C (cont'd)

the Junior Sailing Club after the race. CONGRATULATIONS to all the winning skippers and crews. And THANKS to those who provided the trophies.

I placed a call to Santa the other day. He raved about the great AYC Christmas Party on Dec. 10. He said that the Christmas tree and poinsettas were beautiful and that about 60-70 kids treated him very well. He enjoyed the hot dogs, cake and cookies and all the activities which JANIS LIVINGSTON coordinated. Thanks to JANIS, STEVE VAUGHAN and STEVE JR., DAVID BERNSTEIN, JOHN BARTLETT, ROGER VILLOZ and all the others who made this annual event a "blast."

KATHY PILLMORE and all those who spent months organizing the AYC Banquet deserve a dozen red roses each. The Radisson was an excellent choice of facility, the party gifts were a classy touch, the food and drink excellent, and everyone looked like Cinderella at the Ball! We really are an elegant bunch of water rats when we try!

BILL RECORDS put on a successful Red-Eye Regatta -- with the help of a record (no pun intended) number of 57 participants. And everyone took note of CAFE AU LAIT'S new varnish job, courtesy of Bill especially for the occasion. Nice work Bill (on all accounts)! Word has it that JIM DEETER lost first place to RAY SHULL by only a second or two in the spinnaker class. DAVE WAHLBERG placed third and TIM VICKNAIR fourth.

In the rumor department, I hear that the Pearson 26's have (or are) in the process of buying new 110's and main sails. So look out C-fleet! And look out for new C-fleet racers PAT and VIC MANNING who just bought a Pearson 26, TALISMAN (Sail #163), which makes how many boats now?! WELCOME to C-fleet, Pat and Vic!! And let's not forget newcomer ANNE ELLZEY who also joined the

Pearson 26 crowd with C-fleet. (Editor's Note: will she be surprised when she sees the cover of this Telltale!) Also, my crystal ball shows a house-warming party around March for other Pearson 26 owners JOHN and LOUISE VANCE. The septic system is in and the poles went up on Dec. 14.

Without anyone's permission, I have committed C-fleet to sponsor the Junior Sailing Club's after-the-race meals for the Frost-Bite Series. (The dates will be published as soon as they're approved by the new AYC Board of Directors.) So plan to BRING YOUR KIDS TO THE CLUB on these to-be-published dates, and I will assist them in making Corn Chowder Soup. They can learn the fine art of culinary preparation, food service and domestic engineering (i.e., clean up). I will appreciate any help with junior management, collecting money, clean-up, and organization of the Frost-Bite meals in February. In return, I promise NOT to put tofu in the soup. Let's teach these kids to cook so that if they get stranded on Rattlesnake Island during Summer Sailing Camp, they won't starve.



# ENSIGN

# SOUTH COAST 21

by Mel Kunze

New officers were selected during a fleet meeting held following the last race of the Winter Series. DAN O'DONNELL was elected Fleet Captain, MEL KUNZE Secretary/Treasurer, and GEORGE DAHMEN Fleet Measurer.

The fleet owes a lot to outgoing Fleet Captain HAROLD NEEL for his guidance and support during two back-to-back terms. And he's not through yet. Harold has volunteered to direct the 1989 Regional IV Regatta to be held here on Lake Travis during June 15-18. Let's be ready to help when he asks for volunteers to run the regatta.

A fleet measurement party/meeting will be held prior to the June regatta to check sails for Fleet 30. Those with new or newly repaired sails will want to be there.

During the meeting it was decided that the most successful racers will be identified each year and reported to the national association for inclusion in the Ensign Yearbook. The top three Ensign racing sailors will be identified based on his/her best 20 finishes during races sponsored by the Austin Yacht Club in each calendar year. The top finishers' names will be forwarded to the staff of the yearbook each November commencing in 1989.

Now to the results of the Winter Series. HAROLD NEEL won first place with TOM KOZLOWSKI capturing second and DAN O'DONNELL placing third. Those names always show up among the top finishers!!

UNDER THE COTTONWOOD ...

by Bob Johnson

South Coasts were well represented in the Red-Eye Warm-Up and did very well. In the one-race handicap regatta RAY SHULL took 2nd, BUD BOUCHER 3rd, and BOB FREEMAN 5th.

Much of the current news seems to be in regard to transitions. Fortunately, it is mostly about people returning to, or joining, South Coast racing. After competing on other boats, and doing very well, Linda is getting her South Coast ready for next year. Arthur Talley has decided Minnesota is not the place for him and is back in Austin. He plans to rejoin AYC soon and will be back on AIRBORNE next year. We hope Bud will also be back with the fleet regularly.

Danny has sold his spare boat (1-2-3 GO) to an enthusiastic sailor named Mary Mott. Mary is interested in racing with us, but to do so will need help in getting racing experience. To help keep 1-2-3 GO in the fleet, it would be good if each of us would try to have Mary on our crew at least once, or join her on her boat. And let's keep encouraging Al Easterling also.

The annual South Coast meeting will be Jan. 14 at the AYC clubhouse. This is your chance to hear, or tell, the latest tales, have some of Duane's world-famous chili, and help plan South Coast activities for 1989.

Ray has been getting together a group order for sails. It may be too late by the time you see this, but any South Coast owner who needs sails should contact Ray.

# J-24

by Phil Spletter

The fleet Christmas party, graciously hosted by Wayne and Jane Ashby, marked the beginning of 1989 for J-24 Fleet 21. Naturally the party included the traditional spirited gift exchange including several déjà vu gifts that have a way of rising at the right times. It was reassuring to see that the gifts went home in good hands. Also, in one of the quickest elections in history, the 1989 officers were installed. The lucky folks are: Fleet Captain, Eric Nelson; Treasurer, Roy Smith; Secretary, Phil Spletter, and most importantly Social Chairperson, Robbie Nelson.

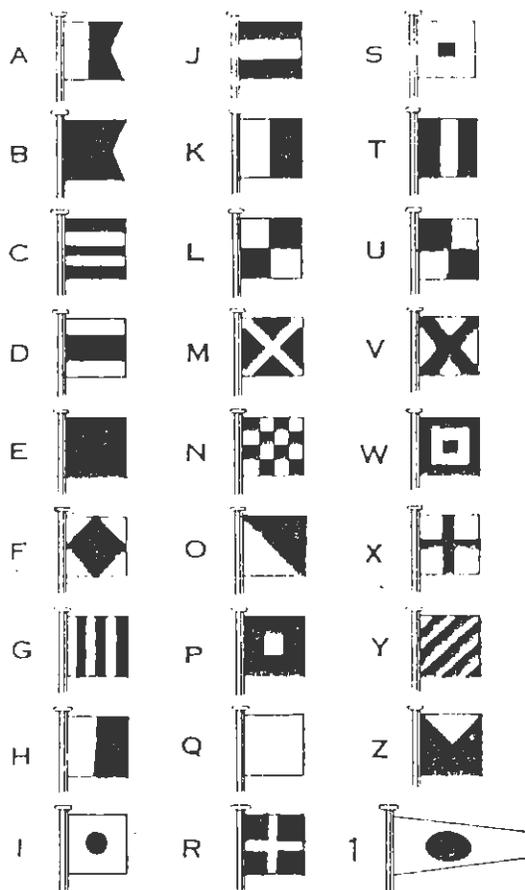
The 1989 J-24 Texas Circuit has already begun with the first two stops, Fort Worth and Canyon Lake. SUPERMAN, PSYCHO, THUNDERSTAR, and MR. HAPPY have made both stops and were joined by WINDSHIFT, GRAND SLAM, and the Garrisons in their TANGERINE MACHINE at Canyon Lake. The circuit has provided some excellent competition and some interesting moments. The Ft. Worth stop had light winds while Canyon Lake was a gear buster. Thus far, THUNDERSTAR's most exciting moment was when they ran aground and got tangled up in a tree while going out on a limb trying to whittle some distance off one of the reaching legs in Canyon Lake. MR. HAPPY seems to be sailing well under John Bartlett and is in the top 3-5 boats. Rumors are circulating that several boats will be making the trip to the New Orleans stop Feb. 18-19.

The rest of the circuit stops are Austin (March 18-19), Lake Ray Hubbard (April 22-23), Rush Creek (May 27-29), Houston (July 22-23), and Corpus Christi (Sept. 10-11). The J-24 Texas Circuit is the longest J-24 event in the world and attracts talent from all over the U.S.

We want the Austin stop to be one of the best, so when you are called upon to help the fleet just say YES.

Speaking of out-of-town, you road warriors with good transmissions will be pleased to know that you can go to Rochester, Nuevo York for the North Americans (August 18-25) and that you can take off, eh to Kingston, Ontario, for the Galactic Championships (June 29-July 6).

Meanwhile, back at the AYC ranch, four boats paid their money and took their chances sailing handicap in the Red-Eye Warm-Up Regatta. SUPERMAN and WINDSHIFT finished in the money.



# J-22

by Greg Schertz

## J-22 FLEET TRAINING UPDATE

Well, in all honesty, "in training" is very boring. All professional athletes know this fact. So, why do they (professional athletes) spend all their time "in training"? Just ask any J-22 sailor. More, bigger, better, and more enjoyable goals are attainable when your mind and body are tuned to perfection. That's why. And that's why our fleet has been "in training".

The training is almost over. You will begin to see more and more J-22s when the series start again. Trust me.

The Southwest Circuit for 1989 is loaded with regattas for everyone that wants to race in different locations against top competition. If you don't own a boat, but would like to crew in some of these regattas, give any Fleet member a call. We'll try to find you a space. Here's a look at the Circuit schedule.

March	11-12	Dallas, CLYC
April	1-2	Shreveport
May	6-7	(tentative) Austin
July	22-23	Oklahoma City
Sept.	9-10	(tent.) Houston
Oct.	7-8	San Antonio
Oct.	21-22	New Orleans

In addition:

Feb.	3-7	MIDWINTERS, St. Pete
June	12-17	NA's Houston

To start the new "non-training" year off right, the FLEET IS HAVING A PARTY. Anyone who owns a J-22, crews on a J-22, wants a J-22, wants to crew on a J-22, or just wants to come to a party, be at the Schertz house on Super Bowl Sunday afternoon. Just call ahead of time so we can get a count.

I do have a couple of items to chat about from the latter stage of 1988.

We had four Fleet boats head down to Houston for the last Circuit stop. The weather was great, wind included, with some really fun racing. Marvin Beckman won the regatta after sneaking up from 3rd at the end of Saturday's racing. Steve Ghormley grabbed 2nd, Mark Rylander finished 3rd, Schertz's 4th, and Bill Mitchell 5th. The Woodward's also sailed but had some rough going with exploding chutes and other fun stuff. Speaking of fun, you should have sat back and watched the protest proceedings for this regatta! Seems that a sailmaker from that area was called over-early for two of the Saturday's races. Seems that he went to the jury, pleaded his case, and was reinstated. What? you say! That's what everyone else said. Seems that several other sailors requested redress saying, "why does he get a head start?" Well, clearer minds prevailed, and the poor sailor was chunked again. We didn't see him at the awards ceremony.

The other item was this year's AYC banquet, which was a great event. I'm not sure how it happened, but the J-22 fleet (at least 8 of us) was assigned table No. 22. Ask Vicki what that might mean. All eight people got at least one award. And that was after they got the other speaker working. We might have won many more before the speaker was installed but we didn't know about it. Oh well, we really did have a lot of fun.

Scotty, don't beam me up yet, we're gonna try this J-22 stuff again in 1989.

# CATALINA 22

by Howard Shirey

The Annual Banquet at the Radisson Hotel was a stunning affair. For those of you who missed it, you really missed a wonderful evening. The food was good, the decorations superb, and the band outstanding. Thanks KATHY PILLMORE and crew for a memorable evening. Many of us took advantage of the room and brunch special which allowed us to continue the party until around 2:00 Sun. afternoon. That little extra touch was well worth the price. No problem driving home, and Sunday brunch was much better than the bowl of cereal I usually have Sun. a.m.

I can't remember all of the award winners, regatta chairpeople, buffet chairpeople, committee people, and contributors to this year's success. But to you all ... our fleet's thanks and gratitude. Your hard work and commitment to AYC over the past year has paid off many times over in the enjoyment our membership has received.

The Annual Catalina Fleet Christmas Party was held at IRMA STOUGH's house with food and fun abound. Fleet Commodore HAL WHITE presided over a small awards ceremony which included a new award this year: the Commodore's Trophy. This award goes to the person or persons hosting the most memorable cruise of the year. This year's winner was BILL LIFLAND and friend MARGOT who hosted the Wine & Cheese Cruise. This was indeed a memorable cruise. The fleet provided cheese, fruit, etc., and each boat brought wine and fixins for kabobs.

The highlight of the evening for me was the presentation of the Herb Stough Spirit Award. This award is given to the fleet member who best represents the spirit of the Catalina fleet. This year I was deeply moved to accept this particular award. Herb was instrumental in getting Martie and me to join the fleet

and was an inspiration to all who knew him. I thank you all for this honor.

Commodore White introduced this year's Commodore, BILL LIFLAND, who took the reins of the fleet. His first official act was to introduce this year's officers:

COMMODORE -- BILL LIFLAND  
CAPTAIN -- NELSON MIKESKA  
MEASURER -- STEVE FREDERICK  
SECRETARY -- ELIZABETH MOORE  
TREASURER -- MARTIE SHIREY

For you AYC folks who are unfamiliar with the Catalina fleet, these officers represent the Catalina cruising fleet and are not all AYC members. NELSON MIKESKA will be the Catalina 22 Fleet Captain for AYC. Speaking of Nelson, he and Mary became Mr. & Mrs. on Dec. 18. CONGRATULATIONS, Nelson and Mary!!!

Enough of this nostalgia of last year. Time to look ahead to 1989. As of this writing only one AYC function of 1988 remains, the New Year's Eve party. March and Opening Day seem far away today, but before you know it the weather will begin to warm and the winds of spring will be upon us.

This year's Board is committed to a successful year, and I am sure there will be a few surprises and new wrinkles. Again, the Catalina 22 fleet is represented on the Board: STEVE PERVIER takes over as secretary as Walter Allan steps down after 3 years on the Board.

The Catalina 22 fleet was very active in 1988 both on the race course and in the clubhouse for the social activities. AYC can expect the same in 1989 under the able leadership of Captain Nelson.

See you all on the lake.

# CENTERBOARDS

by Teri Nelms

The CB's are put away for the winter, and most of our fleet can be found slumming on keel boats. This is a temporary situation which will be remedied as soon as the water warms up just a touch. Bob Tesch is currently using my crew, Tiny, on the J-29. Don't get too used to him, Bob, he comes back "home" when the Fireball goes back in the water.

I would like to take this opportunity to squelch a rumor. It is true that Ronny and I are buying a keel boat. It is, in fact, a fairly large keel boat. One thing it is NOT, however, is a replacement for the Fireball. It is something to put the Fireball in during the winter and a boat to take to Turnback and a party boat and relief station for centerboard sailors. I still do not especially want to be associated with keel boat owners, or at least only loosely ... a dangerous term, I'm sure. After all, we would have the largest centerboard fleet in the U.S. if we could just get HALF the crews off our local keel boats. On the other hand, this will be the only Pearson 31 in the club, and it is rumored to be a very fast boat: if correctly equipped and with a decent crew. I will probably paste a big fat fireball over the Pearson insignia, load it up with Sunfish sailors for Turnback and get there first.

Enough on keel boats: my first love and obligation is my floating coffee table, and I'll see you on the water for the first (Br-r-r-r) series this year. Meanwhile, I'll hang around on the Olson 30 or a J-29 or whatever big dummy will take me on board. See you in the Spring, my fellow CB'ers!

## SUMMARY OF THE 1988 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

THANK YOU to the 204 members who took the time to respond to this survey. Your input is invaluable in helping determine the direction of the Austin Yacht Club.

(Although 204 members responded, not everyone answered all the questions. Therefore, the following results are based on those numbers of responses for each category, not 204.)

The most frequently used facility at AYC is the Maintenance Area, yearly, with 55% closely followed by use of the Clubhouse, weekly, with 53% and Cabin use, yearly, with 52%. The highest percentage for a NEVER used facility was the camping area with 79%.

The most popular sailing activity seems to be weekly Keel Racing with 53% of the 169 responses. And the AYC wet slips (112 responses) and AYC dry storage (79) seem to be the most frequently used. Only 9 people indicated they were waiting for a wet slip.

An overwhelming majority favor keeping our race and regatta schedules the same. And 52% want the Racing Clinics enhanced followed by the Junior Sailing Program with 40%. Otherwise, the majority of members indicated "No Change" in the programs/services offered.

The most popular Improvement was the acquisition of used Sunfish and small instructor's boat for the Junior Program with 66% indicating "yes." Additional A frame in the work area followed closely with 54%, and renovation of one cabin received a 50-50 split of "yes" and "no." A majority of "no" answers appeared in all the other categories.

Out of the 172 responses to "should AYC take a more pro-active role in the community," 52% said "no." If AYC did take a more active role, 39% indicated they would prefer a cooperative sailing event with a charity organization.

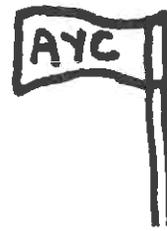
## THE BEST OF WURST ... FEST, THAT IS

by Vicki Bremer

What do you get when you put 11 AYC Sunfish sailors around a campfire near Canyon Lake? Don't ask! But you can bet it spells E U N when it includes Tim Erwin, Mike Strange, Roy Crouse, Rod Ethridge, Shirley Slaughter, Pat & Vic Manning, Bruce Foster, John Saunders, and Jim Deeter. That's 10? Oh, and me.

Although leaving AYC in caravans resembled the finer art of a Chinese fire drill, we managed to find a campsite fit for an Arab sheik. After readying the campsite with firewood, tents, and fire ant poison, we lined our boats along the shoreline in preparation for a quick get-away to tomorrow's races. Each skipper was lost in the deep concentration so necessary to champions. Every screw was checked; every line was pinched and pulled for signs of travel damage; hulls were caressed for signs of new scrapes; masts went up and down, and only the sounds of ripping duck tape broke the silence of champions. Until ... "Who took my duck tape?", pierced the air from the vocal chords of Mike Strange. "What do you mean YOUR tape?", responded Tim who added, "That was MY tape. I brought all the supplies including food for both of us. And all you've done is complain about the expense of your share of the food saying my cookies were too expensive! ..." And so ended the silence of champions -- and thus began the campfire comraderie. But as the campfire laughter died down, so did the happy campers -- retreating to their chosen sleeping quarters to await the first of the big race days. (And Bruce Foster really did fit into the back of his Volvo equipped with everything but Claudia to keep him warm.)

Daylight came too quickly -- or we partied too late. In either case, the excitement of race day awoke even the laziest of souls. While whiffs of Roy's coffee permeated the air, the Sunfish Squad emerged one by one. Somewhere from a van shared by two of the crew came mumblings of "you snored" and something about the side effects of beans. Some hungry sailors went off to breakfast at the local cafe; others stayed and sipped coffee, too nervous to eat. But everyone returned quickly to the task of readying his/her boat -- putting on their "race faces" so aptly put by Mike. Sailing instructions picked up the day before at Lake Canyon Yacht Club were being restudied; to hoist a Jens rig or not was being considered; boats were being shoved off shore, and it was time for racing. Early morning light air carried us to the starting line, but the light air didn't last long -- heavy air to blowing like stink would more aptly describe the conditions for all three races that day. As we reached back and forth dodging Lasers (which included Fred Schroth, Bill Mitchell, Paul Foerster and Eric Frels on the home team) and the Junior Sunfish fleet, we shouted encouragement to each other (secretly hoping we'd at least beat the Junior Sunfishers to the finish.) Tick, tick, tick ... came the countdown and boom ... 31 Sunfish



### THE BEST OF WURSTFEST (cont'd)

jockeyed for air, and off we went. With the lightest air that day (10-12) I actually managed to keep up with Tim Erwin on several legs -- close enough to carry on a conversation. And that had Tim worried -- not that I was that fast, but that he was that slow!

After a lunch break at the campsite, the second race brought even stronger winds (15-18) with occasional heavy gusts. And that spelled temporary disaster for several of us. John Saunders (on port tack) quartered Jim Deeter (on starboard tack) which put Jim in the water and had John going in circles (two of them to be exact). My swim with the crawly underwater monsters happened on the last downwind leg before the finish and I learned the hard way that a gust from just the wrong direction can bury my bow and flip me over (which means I'll be doubly scared!). But I did manage to right my boat, recently named ALL MINE, and even finished the race ahead of many competitors and all the Junior Sunfishers.

The third race was the tough one for me. With teeth rattling and knees shaking from being drenched in cold as well as fear, I prayed for the miracle of a "no wind" cancellation or the committee boat being taken hostage by Martians or something. But no such luck. The wind even picked up in speed which had one positive aspect attached: I could finish sooner. But it also meant my bow could get buried even deeper this time, and I didn't think I had the stamina to go through that again. My arms and hands already felt as though I had competed in the Bulgarian weight lifting camp in the Olympics, without the benefit of steroids. In my anxious state (anxious to get the race over with, that is) I hugged the starting line just the way Bill Draheim taught me at Women's Sailing Camp. As the countdown neared zero I stopped watching my wrist and started watching the Committee boat flag. I needed two hands to control the boat for my daring "B" plan start. Boom ... I was off; the first to cross the line. As I looked back, no one was even close. What a record-making start! But where was everyone? Why was I so far ahead? What? A false start? The Committee boat boomed the gun at the one-minute-to-go signal and had to postpone. Printable words can't describe what I was feeling. But Mike Strange had a marvelous B-type start in one of the races (I can't remember which). And that was his moment of glory for the weekend -- and rightfully so!

When the third race finally got off, it was all I could do to hold the boat down. I probably should've lowered my Jens rig even further between races, but I was almost kissing deck every tack as it was. Concentrating on favored tacks and watching what the hot shots were doing was difficult; thinking about how cold I was and wishing I was anywhere else but here was all too easy. My one concession to fear, however, was performing some of the slowest chicken gybes possible -- anything to stay upright even if it meant losing valuable time. How I managed to place so well

## THE BEST OF WURSTFEST (cont'd)

(not even close to last!) at the end of Saturday's standings shall forever remain a mystery to me (and everyone else!). Beating back to the campsite after Saturday's last race was the final torture of the day. And only the thought of warm, dry clothes and hot chocolate kept me upright and pointing in the right direction. My hands were numb from pain; my arms couldn't pull another 1/4 inch on the mainsheet, and my shivering was reaching an uncontrollable state. But Mike was racing me home. He tacked on the headers and trimmed his sail and slid on deck to the tempo of the waves and beat me home -- no problem. That night around the campfire as we exchanged the day's war stories, Mike announced to the crowd that my biggest problem was that I wasn't aggressive enough -- citing our race home as proof. The agony of defeat -- even when I'm not scoring at a finish line!

Sunday morning's winds couldn't have blown a June bug off a cow's ear. Cancellation was oh so close. But slowly a breeze began to build up -- ah, almost perfect, 5-10. Most of the first race was heaven when all of a sudden Mother Nature decided to show us she was boss. By the second race the winds were blowing 25-30, but I was too macho (or dumb) to call it quits. Every muscle in my body hurt anyway, so what was another few bumps and bruises. I never hiked out so far or pulled so hard on the main sheet as I did that race. But it still wasn't enough. Pat Manning had shaken out the Jens rig she had tried the day before (which made her slower instead of faster), so she was hot on Sunday trying to make up for Saturday's lost places. And no matter what I did, I couldn't make my boat go faster than Pat's. On the last beat to the finish line we were neck and neck battling it out with 4 other AYC Sunfish for top half finishes. But Pat just kept inching ahead until she had a boatlength on me which I couldn't make up. Near the finish the wind was shifting. I was gaining; then I was headed. If Mother Nature had wanted to make my day, she wouldn't have given me one of the worse headers I've ever sailed in, especially so close to the finish. As a result the other 5 AYC boats finished ahead of me, costing me valuable points in the overall regatta standings. But I finished; I stayed upright, and I didn't crash. And in that kind of heavy air, that was an accomplishment for me. And the run back to the campsite was the scariest skip across the water I've ever had. When your hull never touches the water, you know it's blowing!!

Bruce Foster was the top AYC finisher with an 11th overall standing. Although none of us came home with a trophy, we shared experiences and encouragement and comraderie worthy of trophies. One experienced Sunfish sailor from out-of-town (Houston, I think), complimented Shirley Slaughter on her performance that weekend which was worth 10 trophies to Shirley! And that's what sailing is all about -- the thrill of competing, the friends we make, the experiences we share, and the desire to improve and not give up. We didn't come home with the silver, but we came home with the best of Wurst ... fest, that is! Sunfish, Sunfish, Sunfish ...

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