

August 2000

Monthly Newsletter

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Caretakers	Tom Cunningham
	Chris Clark

Austin Yacht Club

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E-Mail & Web Site

www.austinyachtclub.org
ayc@austinyachtclub.org

AYC Business Hours

Tuesday - Friday
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Closed Mondays

Closed Club Holidays

New Year's Day	1 January
Easter Sunday	23 April
Independence Day	4 July
Thanksgiving Day	23 November
Shopping Day	24 November
Christmas Day	25 December

From the Commodore

If the drought of 1999 continues too much longer into 2000 we may want to hire a rainmaker or sponsor a rain dance. Without significant rain, the level of Lake Travis is projected to continue to drop from its current 645' but more slowly than recently because the LCRA is passing water through from Lake Buchanan.

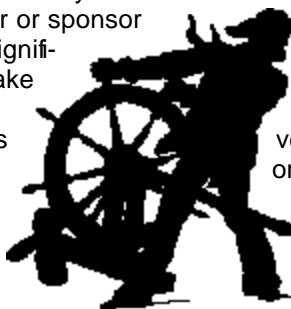
The LCRA's projection is for the lake to be at 643' by early September. As a result, dock 2 will be moved this weekend. Our ramp in the south cove is now out of the water and the training dock is grounded. The north cove ramp is still usable, but should be used with caution as we are nearing its end.

We are taking advantage of the low water to do some work around the

shore and harbor. A contract for the survey, that I told you about last month, has been let. The work, that is going to be done by Chaparral Surveying, should begin very soon. Thanks to the organizational efforts of Terry McDermott, the stone steps that lead to docks one and two have been extended. As I mentioned last month, other harbor work is being considered.

I regret to add that last month the club lost a long time member, Ron Harden. My, and I'm sure the membership's condolences go out to Ron's wife, Lanelle, and his family.

Rob



Harbor News

by Doug Laws

The north cove launch ramp has become very shallow and possibly dangerous for fixed keel boats. There is about a six inch drop at the end of the ramp. If your trailer goes off the ramp, it could become very difficult to retrieve. Therefore, use with caution. Lake levels are approximately 645 elevation and expected to drop to 642 by Labor Day without significant rain. Just be careful.

Planning Ahead

It is August already! Where does the time go?

In September, the Nominating Committee will start their search for 2001 BOD candidates, by requesting members' inputs. In October, the 2001 Volunteer Survey and Directory Update Form will be published. In November the Perpetual Awards Committee will be asking for inputs in prep for the Annual Banquet.



Racing Scheduled

August

2 nd	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
4 th	KHF Beer Can Race
5 th	Summer Evening Series #4
9 th	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
11 th	KHF Beer Can Race
12 th	Summer Evening Series #5
16 th	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
18 th	KHF Beer Can Race
20 th	Indian Summer Series #1
23 rd	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
25 th	KHF Beer Can Race
27 th	Indian Summer Series #2
30 th	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing

September

1 st	KHF Beer Can Race
6 th	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
8 th	KHF Beer Can Race
10 th	Indian Summer Series #3
13 th	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
15 th	KHF Beer Can Race
16 th	Night Race
17 th	Indian Summer Series #4
20 th	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
22 nd	KHF Beer Can Race
24 th	Indian Summer Series #5
27 th	Wed. Night Sunfish/Laser Racing
29 th	KHF Beer Can Race
30 th	Club Team Championships

October

7 th — 8 th	Governor's Cup Regatta
15 th	Winter Series #1
22 nd	Winter Series #2
29 th	Winter Series #3

Summer Evening Series RC Duty

August

5 th	Race 4	Catalina 22
12 th	Race 5	SC/21

Winter Series RC Duty

October

15 th	Race 1	Keel Fleet D
22 nd	Race 2	Centerboard Handicap
29 th	Race 3	J/24

November

12 th	Race 4	SC/21
19 th	Race 5	Catalina 22

Welcome Aboard

By Voldi Maki

New Senior Members:

- Jim Longmire has been sailing a C-15 in Galveston since 1994. He has raced in several AYC events this last year as a crew member. He plans to purchase a racing boat and race at the Club.
- Marcia Mill has a Harpoon 5.2 and has been sailing 2 years. She has taken a course in sailing and hopes to participate in AYC sail training events to improve her racing skills.
- Dave Smith has a Laser II. He has been sailing since 1982 in the Houston area. He has been racing since 1990 in J-24's and a J-29.
- Ricky Pettit has been racing in Colorado since 1994 on Hobie 16's and 17's. He currently owns a J-22. He is presently crewing on a Melges 24.

New Associate Members:

- Dan Friedman has been sailing in New York since 1982 on a J-30 and then a C&C 34. He plans to race a Catalina 25 in the series races at the Club.

Senior Member Reinstatements:

- Robert Gallant has returned to Austin and has requested reinstatement to his previous senior status.

Leave of Absents:

- Jim Quinn previously requested a 6-month leave of absence. He is not yet able to participate in club activities.

Resignations:

- Jeff Picard and Chip Ducrest

Membership Count

Senior	395
Associate	22
Junior	4
Leave of Absence	5
Honorary	7
Life	21
UT Sailing Team	13
Total	467

AYC Swimming Pool Hours

Open:	1 PM Tuesday through 9 PM Sunday
Closed:	9 PM Sunday through 1 PM Tuesday

Adult Sailing Clinic

The Sail Training Committee is planning an adult learn-to-sail clinic for September.

Instructor: Ravi Subramanian
Dates: 2nd & 9th September
Times: 1 to 5 PM
Boats: Sunfish
Fees: \$50 Members
\$60 Non-Members

A hamburger grill and pot-luck picnic are planned for after the on-the-water training sessions on the 2nd and 9th respectively.

Garbage Dump — NOT!

If you have something that needs to go to the dump, please take it there — directly. Do not

Pass Go, do not *Collect* \$200, and, do not stop at the Club dumpster!



The AYC dumpsters are for club business and members' boat/marina related garbage. Do not dispose of old bed frames, mattresses, and other household items in the AYC dumpsters. Take them directly to the dump.

Thanks!!!

**Don't Forget
TX #s!!!**

2000 Double-handed Championship

by John Mollenhauer

Notice Of Race

This race is to conduct the AYC Keel Handicap Fleet, Double-handed Championship.

Place: Austin Yacht Club, Lake Travis, Texas

Rules governing the races: The race is to be sailed under the management of the Austin Yacht Club and supervised by persons appointed by the Keel Handicap Fleet. The regatta will be governed by the US Sailing Association's The Racing Rules of Sailing 1997-2000, except where modified by the sailing instructions, the Class rules of the Keel Handicap Fleet and the Sailing Instructions. This regatta is sanctioned by the AYC Keel Handicap Fleet. Interpretation of the Class Rules and eligibility will be made by the Fleet Captain.

The sailing instructions will be available at the skipper's check-in.

The regatta is open to all owners of double-handed, monohull, keel-boats. Eligible skippers/yachts may be entered by completing a valid registration form and submitting it to the designated officer. All yachts shall be double-handed and shall not use self-steering devices. Yachts shall finish the race with the same number of crew. A valid PHRF rating certificate will be required.

Schedule of events:

August 26, 2000	11:30-12:00	Registration, Check-in
	12:00	Skipper's Meeting
	13:30	Warning signal

The courses will be long distance courses as described in the sailing instructions. There will be one race. The Low-Point Scoring System, Appendix A of The Racing Rules of Sailing will be used.

Entry Fee: \$15.00 for Keel Handicap Fleet Members, \$20.00 for non-members.

Trophies will be awarded

Fall Junior Sailing Clinic

The Sail Training Committee is planning a fall Junior Sailing Clinic for September & October. It will be open to children 8 to 14 years of age.

Dates: 24th Sept, 1st, 15th, & 29th Oct.
Times: 10 AM to 12 Noon
Boats: Optimist
Fees: \$40 Members and \$60 Non-Members
Ages: 8 to 14 Years Old.





LoneStar Charity Cup Regatta

by Scott Spurlin

Several newsworthy items this month. We proposed changing the date of the event to November 3-5th and the AYC Board approved this change at the July 27th meeting. The actual racing dates will be Saturday and Sunday the 4th and 5th of November. I would like to thank the board for their support of this event. It seems like many of the members are excited about building this event and are hoping we can make this a well attended regatta by other clubs from around the state. I have also heard a few people mention that they would still like to have a Wild Turkey race on the calendar. I believe there is room for both events and will try to volunteer for the calendar committee so that we can have both next year.

The regatta sponsorship packets are now available. They can be picked up at the AYC office or contact me directly. This information is put together so that any of us can take to a business (employer, friendly business owner, etc.) and provide them with background on the event. The foundation that we are working with is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which is very important information for a prospective sponsor, as this tax status can provide them with tax benefits that they may require before donating to a charity. Another piece of information that may be helpful is that 87% of the money donated goes to the actual beneficiaries. This is one of the highest rates in by any charitable organization. Many charities have much higher administration and other costs reducing the amount that is actually donated. This organization is run much like we run the club-dependent upon volunteers.

The sponsorships consist of several levels of sponsorship. Sponsors can donate goods and services for the silent auction, all the way up to goods, services, and dollars at any level they feel fit to do so. Examples of some of the items we could use as donations are: large tent for Saturday dinner/dance/silent auction, Friday/Saturday meal catering, Friday/Saturday drink service, entertainment-bands/master of ceremonies, banners, trophies, t-shirts, table and chair rental, rolls/donuts/bagels for the sailors, raffle items, and many, many more items/services that we need. This is one area we could really use some help with. We got a very late start on the sponsorship packets and are hoping we can get several members to help out with recruiting donors/sponsors.

If you have any ideas/questions or need a packet of info please call us at 335-5214 or drop us a line at: sspurlin@austin.rr.com. Packets will also be available at the AYC office. I will also e-mail the packet info to Gail and it may be posted on the AYC web site. Thanks for your support.

Regattas and Championships

By Phil Spletter

Apparently La Nina is breaking up so the long range forecast is for a "normal" weather pattern (with some rain) to return by the end of the month. The lake ever rose a few inches this week. The launching ramp at Mansfield Dam has been closed so there are fewer power boats on the lake. However, the AYC ramp remains open for most of the dry-sailed boats. The series race last night was fine with a very good turnout. So, it's on to more sailing at AYC!

The next regatta will be the Overnight Race on the evening of September 16. PRO Frank Woodall is planning a course that will use AYC permanent marks in such a way that exposure to low water will be minimized. Where there are potential hazards, chase boats will be stationed to warn boats that are getting too close. In addition, the course will be posted well in advance so folks can familiarize themselves with the route. Regatta Chairman Lou Kimball is planning festivities before and after the race so stay tuned for more details as they develop.

On September 30 and 31 (if necessary), the Club Team Championship will be conducted in Ensigns. Thanks to the Ensign fleet for enthusiastically providing boats. This year four person teams comprised of AYC members will sail. The entry deadline will be September 27 at 5:00 PM. Please talk to your fleet members or put together an independent team and come on out!

The Single-handed Championship will follow the same format that has been used for the past several years with championships awarded to Sunfish and Laser sailors that compile the best score during the month of September. Throw outs will be in accordance with the ISAF criteria. Separate awards will be made for male and female sailors. There must be at least three competitors in order for an award to be made.

The Junior Championship will be determined with a regatta later this fall. The details will be made available when they are finalized.

On the horizon is the Governor's Cup Regatta on October 7&8. The regatta is being planned by chairmen Tim Irwin and John Saunders. They have been talking with PRO Steve Eller about including a course for centerboard boats. So stay tuned for details as they develop.

Yes, the lake is low but there is plenty of water to conduct races. Powerboat traffic is down and will decrease further when school starts. As Fall approaches with the promise of cooler weather (and rain), please take the opportunity to enjoy the club by participating in these events.

Sunfish News

by Joanne Weberlein

Thirty-five Sunfish from across the state and the gulf coast attended the annual Galveston Boat Club Sunfish Regatta July 29-30 in Offatts Bayou. Saturday's winds were moderate (10-15) which made for shifty conditions. (The wind funnels through the pyramids at the Moody Gardens!) Hank Saurage dominated the day winning three out of 4 races. I managed to pull off a bullet in the first race, but Hank came on strong the next three races. Sunday's winds were westerly and not as breezy (5-10). Hank won the first race, but Todd Edwards finished the regatta with a hard earned first in the last race. The top five overall were:

Hank Saurage	Baton Rouge
Todd Edwards	Baton Rouge
Gerard Coleman	Galveston
Joanne Weberlein	Austin
Bishop Stieffel	Mississippi

The Austin Yacht Club was well represented at this event! Along with me were: Deke Dekyser, Larry Hill, Vicki Stones, Ted Owens, Bruce Foster, Kevin Reynolds, Jerry Parlee, Tom Boren, and Laser sailors, Eric Faust and Ravi, were there racing Sunfish! Oh, Vic and Pat never showed up but they were there in spirit. Where were you guys anyway?



Sunfishers (and Laser sailors who want to cross over to the other side) mark your calendars for September 16 & 17. The Southwest Regional will be at Seabrook Sailing Club and it is a World Qualifier for Italy!

A-Fleet News

by Scott Spurlin

Well I've really been out of touch since I do not have a boat. The latest news on my J80 is that it will arrive sometime in mid to late October. I have not made it out to sail on any boats except for hitching a ride on Wasabi for one of the beer can races several weeks ago. I have went out a couple of times on an alternative powered boat to take some pictures of the summer evening series, which are posted on the A-Fleet web site. Last night I watched the races from Volente Beach club where we were having our company picnic. Took a few people out from the company on the other type of boat and discovered a couple of people that said they wanted to be a part of the racing. So we shall see! I always love getting new people out. One couple who have occasionally raced even said that they are interested in a J80. Even though I'm not racing at the moment I'm still working for the fleet!

For the August 5th race we watched Wasabi, the J27, Lindenergh, Viper 640, and I think I saw the Stiletto flash by. Everyone looked good and fast! All the new sails on the boats sure look great! Not sure how the current standings are but it looks like everyone is handicapping pretty close to where they should be on the course. We need to get the Melges and the J29's back out. If anyone has any comments or ideas for things that you would like to do that are A-fleet related drop me a line. We only have four months left in 2000 and I'm interested in finishing the year off on a high note with a few more A-fleeters out on the course. If your boats in the water you might as well race it because you can't get it out! Let me know what we can do to get you out!

PHRF Handicap Committee Open Meeting Notice

29 August 2000

by John Mandell

Open Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 29, 7:30 PM at AYC Clubhouse

Ratings to be Reviewed: J/80

The rating for the J/80 will be reviewed by the Handicap Committee during the third quarter to determine if a rating change is appropriate. The open meeting for Handicap Fleet members to make public comments or present evidence will be held on Tuesday, August 29 at 7:30 PM at the AYC Clubhouse. At a later date, the Committee will meet privately to review the input and data and make a decision. Changes, if any, will be effective at the first of the following quarter (October 1).

Note: Gail Bernstein has recently added the current Lake Travis PHRF ratings to the AYC web site (thanks Gail!). They may be displayed in any of three ways: by Owner, Boat type, and PHRF Rating. The listings can be found at:

www.austinyachtclub.org/fleets/keelhKcomm.htm
or

www.austinyachtclub.org,
then click "Fleets" and "Keel Handicap Committee"

420 National Championships

By Stephen Gay

To the collective disbelief of most of my Laser sailing buddies, I sailed the Club 420 at Texas Youth Race Week and had such a good time I decided to take the weekend and travel to Grosse Pointe, MI, on Lake St. Claire just outside of Detroit for the first-ever 420 national championship. The 420 North Americans has been a 130-boat event in recent years, but it is confined to the Northeast, which is the center of popularity for the boat. The Nationals regatta has the objective of moving a major 420 event off the East coast to the other areas where the boat has or is developing some popularity. This regatta had 30-some boats, and not a single one came from the East Coast because of the 100-boat Hyannis regatta. It was a fine showing for a lot of talented Midwest sailors.

The Club 420 is basically a training platform for the Olympic 470. It incorporates the trapeze and spinnaker of the Olympic boat but has fewer controls and caters to youth sailors by having less sail area than its Olympic brethren. The boat does have plenty of power to deliver an exiting ride, however, whether it be beating to windward or screaming on a spin reach.

The beautiful Grosse Point Yacht Club is a very nice club, one which is best described as the exact opposite of the Austin Yacht Club. There are a large number of very large motor yachts. The club has awesome tennis facilities, has a bowling alley in the club, and ballrooms, restaurants, and dress codes abound. But the club is committed to hosting one big sailing event a year, and they do so in style. The regatta was extremely well managed from the shore side prospective by an energetic and committed sailor whose name I have absolutely forgot but whom I would like to thank anyway.

The first day had light to moderate and shifty breezes as storms and thunderheads maneuvered around the club. Myself and my crew Mallory Fontenot of the



Houston YC found ourselves sailing into some good looking breeze deep left when the ninety-degree righty came in. We pulled a pretty good comeback out of the bag for a 12 and then ran to shore as the squall hit. The following race was more of the same, big shifts driving the race committee insane, except that the breeze kept down to five knots or so. We got buried somewhere trying to slug upwind in the steep chop from the short storm and took a big 18. In the final race of the day the breeze mellowed out a bit and held a decent heading for a while, and we played the shifts very sweetly to come out in the top three around the first mark. We lost a boat here and a boat there to come across the line in 7th, which we were pretty pleased with because of our crew weight. We wanted the big breeze.



Mother Nature has often listened to me pray for big wind and ignored me, and I guess this time she let out all that pent-up frustration and just let me have it. The morning greeted us with 25-30 knots and huge waves that left Mallory and I with nervous grins. We got what we wanted, all right. Maybe even a little more than we were prepared to deal with... Deep breath... Right off the line in the first race we squirted out and quickly passed the fleet. We rounded in first, jibed around the mark, and started surfing waves. We had an eye duel with the boat in second—are YOU going to set the



(Continued on page 7)

High School Sailing

by Kyle Sanders

Westwood High School

Home Of The Warriors



High School sailing has been a blast! Students of Westwood High School, with the help of Steve Gay, set up a sailing program earlier this year that included the purchase of three 420 dinghies to practice and race on. We have participated in a variety of youth events ranging from High School Sugar Bowl Regatta, held at Southern Yacht Club last December, to the Houston Race Week a few weeks ago. The experience has been nothing short of amazing, as I have learned almost everything I know about sailing and racing from the team.

We practice usually two or three times a week, setting up mock course around the AYC permanent marks. We practice in both the collegiate FJs, with no trapeze or spinnaker, and the club 420, with the trap and chute. The racing style is fast and furious, with a short course and a 3 minute starting sequence so as to give us the maximum amount of races. This allows us to concentrate more on tactics rather than pinching out every ounce of boat speed over a long leg. If anyone is interested in practicing with us, or learning about our setup, contact Stephen Gay (257-2386) or Kyle Sanders (250-

0046). Any junior sailor who wants to come sail with us should call, as we're always glad to see more people and boats out sailing! We would love to help you start your own high school team...

Dripping Springs HS

Home of the Tigers



Lake Travis High School

Home of the Cavaliers

Stephen F. Austin HS

Home of the Fighting Maroons



Westlake High School

Home of the Chaparrals



Editorial Note from Steve Gay: Students from all area schools are welcome to join and participate in the High School Sailing Program. Westwood High School has an official High School Sailing Club. Even though the other area schools do not have official Sailing Clubs, students from Dripping Springs, Lake Travis, Stephen F. Austin, and Westlake are currently sailing in the high School Program.

420 National Championships (Continued)

chute? Eventually we looked at this big, fine lead, watched two boats round, set, and wipe out, and decided that this race was going to be non-spinnaker for us. The boat behind us flipped on a jibe without the spin. The one boat to set and not crash met us right at the line (it was a downwind finish) and we beat out the regatta leaders, Nathan and Carrie, by approximately one large hair width. The bullet was ours, but it had been much, much too close. Next time we were definitely setting the chute.

The fifth race followed in a similar pattern as we again smoked the fleet on the beat and jibed around the mark because the course was a bit skewed. We set the pole, threw it up, and struggled with it for a bit. When it caught, there was about two seconds between the "pop" of the chute filling and the somewhat louder "thump" of the mast

impacting the water. I won't go into the volume or details of the words that followed. Four boats carried the chute successfully, I believe, on that leg. We ate a tenth. The final race we vowed not to set, but found our upwind speed diminished because we forgot to drain the hulls after our capsize. We pulled a 4th.



The end results were broken into two divisions, the Open Division, which was everyone and lead by college sailors and the Youth Division, which was all non-collegian sailors 18 and under. Mallory and I finished 6th in the Open Division and 1st in the Youth. I was quite pleased with that, until it was pointed out to me that we finished 8 points out of second place overall, and that chute set had cost us nine boats. (Wince!) But what's life if there isn't always something you can do better?

TSA Junior Circuit

by Tim Arnold

TSA has 15 junior regattas in Texas this year starting in March and ending in November. Port Arthur starts the season with the Mardi Gras Regatta and The Roadrunner at AYC follows in late March. There are 5 more regatta left in the season, all on week-ends during the school year, which makes it difficult to meet the academic requirements. This year AYC also hosts the end of season regatta Nov. 11. West Marine is the sponsor, and it will be a one day event with a banquet and an award ceremony for the entire season results. Sunday morning is the annual TSA Jr. meeting where next years calendar is planned.

Our junior sailors who travel have always done well in competition around the state. Learning to sort out the streaky pressure of Lake Travis seems to pay off, as does their parents dedication and preparation. Not only is their talent recognized, but the friendly and good natured sportsmanship that AYC youth bring to these events helps make every regatta more fun.

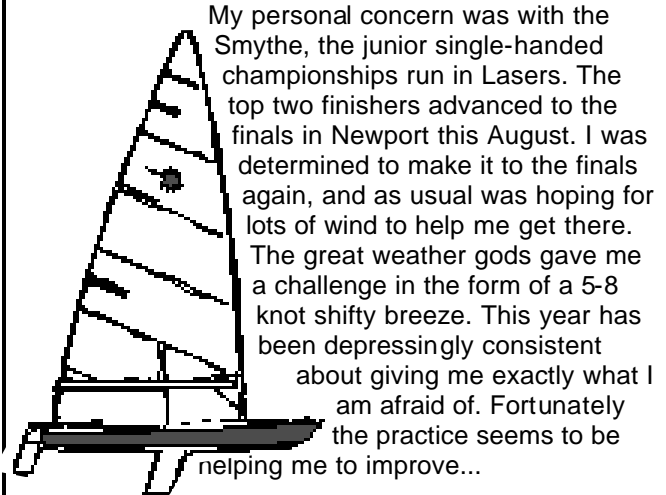
TSA juniors must sail at least 7 regattas in the season to qualify for cumulative point scoring for the year. The more events attended, the better the chance for that prestigious award. The Westwood High 420 team participated in the Junior Olympics at Houston Race Week. Stephen Gay with crew Malory Fontaneau finished first in the 420 fleet at Houston Race Week. Earl Gerloff won 1st in Sunfish at Race Week, and Lauren Foster and Danielle Ellenbrook raced 420's at Houston with an 8th and a 7th at the first two venues. Lauren also sails a Laser Radial, and earned the top female Corpus Christi in June. Danielle has won 2nd place in two regattas so far in the Byte fleet. Ryan Harden dominates the Radial fleet in Texas, having won the two regattas he sailed at Race Week. Matt Arnold and Jacob Wheat finished 3rd and 7th overall at Race Week and will sail as many regattas as they can in the Optimist red fleet. They both age out of the Optimist this year and are going for the glory before they move to the Laser Radial fleet. Look for Jacob and Matt's report on their trip to Pensacola for the USODA Nationals in the next Telltale.

The 420 fleet is growing strong in Texas with several clubs buying new boats and even more individuals buying boats. Twelve 420's showed up for Houston Race Week and 420's are making a fleet now at most regattas. The dynamics of double-handed sailing are contagious. The excitement of trapeze and spinnakers, is really making some conversions around the state, and the 420 is very important nationally at the high school and college level.

Area F O'Day/Smythe Qualifiers

By Stephen Gay

Area F Sears/Bemis/Smythe Qualifiers were combined with the US Sailing Men's Single-handed Championships (O'Day) qualifier on July 8th at Fort Worth Boat Club. Regatta chair Bob Yarborough orchestrated the move, which allowed the fleet of talented junior sailors to race against the adults and possibly double-qualify for the O'Day cup finals as well. Bob did an excellent job organizing this event, and his hard work paid off with a smooth-running and enjoyable regatta. Thank you Bob.



The races were short, quick battles not unlike our Wednesday night series. Dave Hibert from Ft. Worth really put on a show, being called over early in no less than three of the seven races and still winning six. He took the spot and went on to represent Area F in the Finals in California. Doug Peckover was second as he quite consistently passed me nearly every race on the final leg. I came in third in the O'Day qualifier.

In the Smythe, the battle was between myself and a kid from Oklahoma whose name I have forgotten. He weighed about 100 pounds and was very, very fast in the lighter breezes. Fortunately he had lots of trouble over 5 knots. I bested him in five of seven races to earn the first spot in Newport this August. Steve Johnson of Corpus Christi YC was third by one point.

The Sears Regatta, sailed in J/22's, saw the Ft. Worth Boat Club team led by Charles Higgins win and proceed to the finals, while in the Bemis (sailed in Club 420's) saw HYC pull a sweep with the teams of Genny Tulloch/Anthony Scruggs and Katie Ward/Roberta Steele advancing to the finals. Congrats to all the winners, and good luck in Newport this August.

Catalina 22 Fleet News

by Jon Finch

If you have been out to the lake recently you have noticed that the lake level continues to drop (currently at 645, according to Omar). In case you think the lake is going to run out of water, just last Saturday we an-



The "bullet meister" himself Larry Hill with Becky Waddell and crew.

chored the RC boat at a depth of over 125 feet! Yes, there are a few new sand bars, stumps, etc. but Lake Travis is still a great place for sailing, and the winds have been very good.

Now that the euphoria of Dave and Pete's National Championship is wearing off, the big fleet news is Steve Shepherdson's birthday – it is hard to believe but he just passed the big Five Oh! After the race on Saturday July 29th, we had a Margarita party upstairs in the clubhouse. There were dueling blenders and our self-appointed "mixologists" Becky Waddell and Steve (the birthday boy himself) Shepherdson kept the Margaritas coming. We had regular, strawberry, and even Mango ritas! Every one of them tasted good and they got even better as the night wore on (or was everyone just getting pleasantly intoxicated?). A whole bunch of folks were there to help Steve celebrate including Meri, Dave Rehberg, Eric and Robbie Nelson, Gary Payne, Steve and Cheryl Pervier, Jon Fitch, Becky Waddell, Cynthia Creamer and Dave Boerner, Bob and Karen Jones, Jim and Kathy and Tyler Johnstone, Annette Bell, Doreen Jones, Louie and Janet, and a number of others.



Paul and George chilling out on Dumbo.

For the Saturday Evening Series racing we have had good wind and good on-the-water competition. For the first race, the competition was so close that, at one point, there were three of us beam to beam on a run. Larry and Becky (Trivial Pursuit) have found the formula to this hot weather sailing as they keep racking up the bullets (all firsts in the first four races). Will someone please step forward and keep these guys humble? Chris Thomas had his boat out racing for the first time (nice top side paint job Chris!). For those who don't know Chris, he joined the club and bought a C22 earlier this year. Chris works at the UT Power Plant downtown and lives in Northwest Austin. Bill Wheat and Lynn Lilly, it was good to see you guys out on the

water. If you don't see Bill and Lynn out at AYC, they are probably out doing some serious off shore sailing. Omar Zia – it was good to see you out on the water, in spite of your busy travel schedule. After the race, we had our usual Fajita cookout and hung out by the pool.

Race #3 was also good sailing, although the wind really died for the second race. It was late and getting dark and just as soon as we crossed the finish line from the second race, you could see dust fly off the shore down the lake. Sure enough about 30 seconds later, the whole fleet got hit with a thunderstorm (wind and rain). Oh well . . . after a few Margaritas at Steve's birthday party that night, whatever happened on the water didn't seem to matter anymore.

I never thought I would see it happen, but the club moved Dock 2 out to the point yesterday (Aug. 5th). Thanks to Paul Jensen, John Grzinich, Steve Shepherdson, and Jon Fitch for coming out to help.



George and Paul Jensen (far boat), Chris Thomas (near boat), and Jon Fitch (boat taking the picture) all beam to beam on run.

Last night (Aug 5th) the fleet had RC duty. Just as the committee boat was passing the rigging dock, the motor died. It wouldn't restart, and we realized that both of the batteries were dead. Many thanks to Dane Ohe and Larry Hill for scrounging up two nicely charged batteries that got us going again! While were tied up to the rigging dock waiting for the batteries, a couple of the J-boats even tried to check in (in jest of course). Fortunately, we still had plenty of time to set up a course and get the races started on time. We had Wade Bingaman and Omar Zia on the weather chase boat, Jack Shanley and Jerry Chandler and Ted Owens on the leeward chase (Jack and Jerry are from the All Catalina Fleet – thanks for coming out!), and on the committee boat we had Cheryl Pervier, Meri and Steve Shepherdson, Jim Johnstone, and Jon Fitch. Thanks everyone! The fleet ran race committee as if they were on "auto pilot" – everyone knew just what to do. As they were heading back to the dock, I heard all kinds of happy rowdy animal noises from the J-24's – I know at least one fleet appreciated the job we did.

Mark your calendars . . . the Indian Summer series is coming up soon (Aug 20, 27, Sept. 10, 17, and 24). See you on the water!



Ernest Hemmingway? Oh... hello Victor!



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