

December 2000

Monthly Newsletter

Board of Directors

Commodore	Rob Wilson
Im. Past Commodore	Voldi Maki
Vice Commodore	Phil Spletter
Secretary	Gail Bernstein
Treasurer	Becky Heston
Race Commander	Bob Harden
Buildings & Grounds	Michael Stan
Fleet Commander	Doug Laws
Sail Training	Brigitte Rochard

AYC Staff

General Manager	Nancy Boulmay
Office Manager	Cynthia Eck
Caretakers	Tom Cunningham
	Vic Farrow

Austin Yacht Club

5906 Beacon Drive
Austin, Texas 78734-1428
Office: (512) 266-1336
Office FAX: (512) 266-9804
Clubhouse: (512) 266-1897

E-Mail & 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

Looking back on this year, the first thing that struck me was how different it was from what I had anticipated before I agreed to take the job of Commodore. At that time I thought my focus for 2000 would be on improving participation in the Club's events. My first major crisis occurred just as the new year was beginning. Ken Larson, our then General Manager, told me he was quitting. The prospect of hiring a new manager was anything but pleasant. Fortunately for me personally and for the Club Nancy expressed an interest in being promoted to manager. This promotion was supported by everyone whom I asked and Nancy quickly took charge of the day to day operations of the AYC. I want to thank Nancy for the hard work that she has done over this transition year.



The next task was then to hire someone to do the work that Nancy had been doing. We had to go through this process twice before we found Cynde. To add to our staffing task, we had been experimenting with employing a single caretaker augmented with contract help. Part way through the year we decided that this was not working well and decided to hire a second caretaker. After our first new caretaker did not work out we hired our current employee, Vic. It appears to me that we now have a fine group of dedicated employees. I hope that our employee situation is stable and we won't have to hire

any new employees in the foreseeable future.

The highlight of the spring was the presentation that was given by Gary Jobson. Turnout for this event was very good and Gary gave a thoroughly enjoyable talk. I encourage the club to have more events like this.

This year we tried some new things. We moved two of our major regattas and added a centerboard event in the middle of the summer. The Centerboard Regatta was an unqualified success. The participation for the Turnback Regatta and the Governor's Cup Regatta were not as good as in years past. It is difficult to tell if this is because of the changes we made or reflects the low lake levels and the bad weather we had for the fall event.

The staff has been kept busy chasing the lake level. For most of the year the lake fell, which necessitated the moving all of the docks. Then last month the rains came and the lake quickly swelled to its current, over full, status. In my opinion, all of the work that was required to keep up with the rising waters and the dock moves justified our decision to return to two caretakers. I want to thank the staff and all of the volunteers who helped us keep up with the changing levels of our lake.

(Continued on page 3)

Life Membership

By Voldi Maki

Russell Painton has been involved with club activities since the establishment of the AYC Trust. He wrote the first set of By-Laws for the Club. He was the first Race Commander and was such for several years. He taught sailing and ran drills and practice races. He assisted in the planning, design and construction of the original Club building. He negotiated with the homeowners of Travis Landing to establish property and water rights in the South Cove. He assisted in the planning and re-design of the cabins after the Big Flood. With Frank McBee he spearheaded the establishment of the nationally affiliated Blue Gavel of AYC. He has actively raced the following boats: Flying Dutchman, Thistle, Cal 25, J-24 and J-29. He has never received the Blue Duck Award!

The following is a list of the offices held at the Club:

Race Commander (twice)
Secretary
Treasurer (three times)
Vice Commodore
Commodore
Fleet Commander
Long Range Planning Committee Member
Chairman Perpetual Awards Committee

The Board unanimously granted Russell Painton the status of Life Member at AYC because of his outstanding service to the club since its inception.

Congratulations, Russell, and thanks for all you have so generously given to the club.

AYC at Next Level Events

by Phil Spletter

As 2000 draws to a close so do yearly championships. AYC can be proud of the accomplishments of its sailors who competed. The West Marine Junior Regatta, originally planned to be in Austin but moved to Corpus Christi due to rising water in Lake Travis, was the final regatta of the 2000 Texas Sailing Association (TSA) Junior Circuit. Matt Arnold was second overall in the optimist red fleet, Steven Gay was first overall in 420s and Ryan Harden was second overall in Laser Radials. Joanne Weberlien was seventh overall and the top female in a 104 boat fleet at the Sunfish World Championships held recently in Sarasota, FL. Congratulations to these champions and all the AYC sailors who compete in championship events and events at the higher levels of our sport!

Welcome Aboard

By Voldi Maki

New Senior Members:

- Robert and Kimberly Nilsson have been sailing about one year. They have owned a Catalina 22 and a Catalina C-250. They plan to learn to race. They also have two children who will participate in youth programs.

New Associate Members:

- Maryjane Moore has sailed off shore on several large boats in 1974 and 1997. She wishes to learn to sail and eventually purchase a boat.

Resignations

- John Gray, Neil Twilla, John and Maurine Butler, and Shirley Slaughter

Membership Count

Senior	393
Associate	21
Junior	4
Leave of Absence	5
Honorary	8
Life	22
UT Sailing Team	20

Membership Dues Discounts

Non-Resident Member Discount:

Members whose primary residence is more than 200 miles from AYC and who have no boats on AYC property may request in writing a 50% discount in monthly dues.

Ol' Salt Member Discount:

Members who are 62 years of age or older, who have been AYC members for ten years or more, and who have no boats stored on AYC property may request in writing a 50% Ol' Salt discount in monthly dues. Members qualifying for an Ol' Salt Membership Discount who have been members longer than 30 years may request a 100% discount in monthly dues. Board approval is required.

Remember to send in your
directory update information
and volunteer form.

Thanks!

Catalina 22 Year in Review

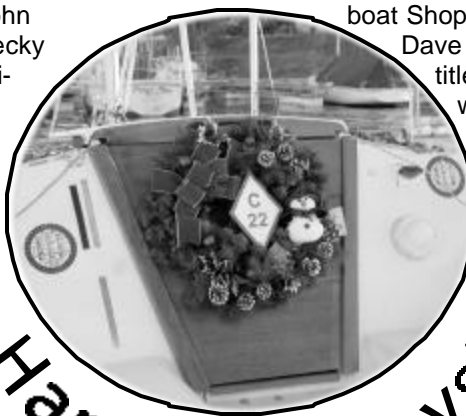
by Jon Fitch

The year 2000 racing season has been a busy one . . . we had participation from more than 20 boats including Walter Allan, Wade Bingaman, Roy Crouse, Jon Fitch, David, Martin & Jennifer Grogono, John Grzinich, Pete Harper, Larry Hill & Becky Waddell, Paul Jensen & George Robison, Jim Johnstone, Bob Jones, Mac McIntyre, Dane Ohe, Ted & Barb Owens, Gary Payne, Steve & Cheryl Pervier, Steve & Merrie Shepherdson, Chris Thomas, Bill Wheat, and Omar Zia. A number of new competitors have emerged from the fleet. Watch out for George Robison and Paul Jensen on Dumbo – that boat is not so dumb after all! Walter Allan did well at Governor's Cup. Wade Bingaman has really dialed in the performance of the blue boat, "Dry Heave". Larry Hill & Becky Waddell always did well, especially with a spinnaker. Roy Crouse is also off to a fast start, and he is still learning the boat. David Grogono took a few bullets too. And, the usual highly competitive boats are still there: Pete Harper, Ted & Barb Owens, just to name a few.

During the last year, we accomplished almost everything we had planned at our fleet meeting at the beginning of the year. We had a boat tuning day with Pete Harper. We had a number of cookouts after the races with Fajitas and hamburgers. We had frozen Margari-



What looks different about our harbor? Hint: W-A-T-E-R!



Happy Holidays!

tas several times, including Steve Shepherdson's birthday party. Thanks to Martin Grogono, we now have nice color brochures for our fleet (available at the Sailboat Shop & West Marine). Pete Harper and Dave Rehberg brought the C22 national title home to Fleet 69 and AYC. Overall, we had a very level of racing participation throughout the year. For at least two of the AYC series, we had the most participation of any fleet at AYC!

The 2000 season saw a number of new members in the fleet: Chris Thomas, Tom & Krista Gardiner, Paul Brandner, Roy Crouse, David, Martin & Jennifer Grogono, and Omar Zia. During the year, we lost Jim Deeter who had to resign from the club for health reasons. I am happy to report that, although we lost Bill Wheat as a member of the C22 fleet, he sold his boat to Tom & Krista Gardiner also at AYC. Bill will still be sailing at the club, although on a different boat.

The summer of the 2000 racing season brought some of the lowest lake levels in 20 years. Dodging sunken brush, sandbars, and shallow water became a sport in itself. At one point, levels were so low (below 640 feet) you couldn't even launch a swing keel C22. I am pleased to report that fall rains have filled the lake to a level of 681.5 feet (681 is considered full) and we are in very good shape for next spring and summer. In spite of the low water levels, Steve Starr still wasn't able to put together a team of divers to recover his sunken C22, II Obscure. The one day Steve had assembled a team of divers to make an attempt, the dive master sprained his ankle before the dive and couldn't come.

In closing, it has been a pleasure and a privilege serving as your fleet captain this year. I'm glad I have had the chance to get to know many of you. Have a great holiday . . . another season of good racing is just around the corner.

(Continued from page 1)

Through this all we had some fine racing and some good times. Thanks to all of the members who came out and pitched in at all of our events. I want to give special thanks to the other Board members, to the regatta chairs, and to everyone else who took on the responsibility of organizing an event. After serving as Commodore, it is clearer to me than ever that this club

thrives only by the volunteer efforts of the membership. Please make every effort to help. It benefits the Club and usually is a lot of fun.

Best wishes to Phil and the new Board of Directors for a successful and enjoyable 2001.

Rob

A Fleet Wrap Up

by Scott Spurlin

This is my last A-Fleet Telltale submission, and I have writers block! Lots of thoughts tumbling through my head as I think back about A-Fleet and A-Fleet activities over this last year. I guess all I can do is let the thoughts tumble out and see how it sounds.

First and foremost I want to say thanks for the many volunteers that stepped up throughout the year. The sailors of A-Fleet volunteered for Race Committee five different times, Friday night beer can cooks, and several other times when we needed to do our part to supply labor and expertise to support an AYC event. I actually had too many volunteers a few times, nice problem to have!

Participation. In 1998 a lot of folks were saying A-Fleet was dead. There were many times we did not have enough boats to qualify for a series or regatta trophy. We have definitely come back from that! I wrote several months ago that we were the second or third most active fleet at the club, with the Sunfish fleet first. This is great! Our fleet is the most diverse, and as such is almost impossible to handicap, yet for some events and series races we had the most participation. It is my hope that for next year we continue to grow and improve the racing within our fleet, there are still a lot of boats on the sidelines that need to be back out competing. I still believe that the best thing we can do as a fleet, and for our club is to encourage participation. Through increased participation we can eventually fleet boats in tighter handicap ranges. For those of you that didn't get out as much as you liked this year start now, get crew together and go out and sail. The lake is full and beautiful and the weatherman guarantees a warmer then usual winter, perfect time to be out sailing. By the time the Red Eye Regatta comes around you'll have a great start on getting the program together.

A-Fleet also traveled extensively. We had boats on the line at Key West, Texoma-Lakefest, Galveston NOOD, Harvest Moon, and those are just the events I remember! To get boats to come to AYC events we need to participate in out of town events. Try something new next year and pull that boat to an out of town event.

Schedule it around a bottom job or some other must do maintenance chore that requires pulling the boat out of the water. Traveling and sailing in a fleet of one design boats like yours or just other similar boats along with a new venue may just get those sailing juices flowing stronger then they ever have.

Towards the end of the year the participation lagged a little, but this was understandable with many owners electing to get their boats out of the water while the ramp was still usable. This is unscientific (I didn't do the research and Gail says tonight is the deadline), but my hat is off to John Mandell, Jim Van Fleet, and Scott Walsh. I believe these three were the A-Fleet diehards and made most of the AYC events. In the out of town events A-fleeters made history: Voldi Maki and crew on a borrowed F28R took first place in the multi-hull Corsair division at this years Harvest Moon Regatta, Steve McKinley was second. Jeff Jones and his little Viper went up against a Santa Cruz 50 and a 1D35 (professionally crewed) at the Sperry Cup and beat them boat for boat in two out of three races! For his efforts he won his class and won the events overall "Fleets" trophy.

I enjoyed being fleet captain this year. It gave me the opportunity to meet and work with quite a few more sailors. A-Fleet is a fun group! I have rarely seen unsportsman like conduct. When a foul occurs the off-fender is usually doing turns before the flag comes out. When damage occurs it has been taken care of professionally and quietly. (not that this happens very often- once this year that I know of) I have not seen a lot of berating of other boats on the course or a lot of trash talk. These are things that we should continue to foster. This, after all, is a Corinthian sport, and we do this for rest and relaxation. Lets make sure we continue to keep it clean, fun, and friendly. For all of my thoughts about A-fleet this is the best one. My toast to A-Fleet: Here's to a great group and lets keep on having fun in 2001. (the rhyme was accidental - I'm not that good) Have a great holiday season and see ya'll January 1, at the Red Eye Regatta.

UT Sailing News by Tom Carson

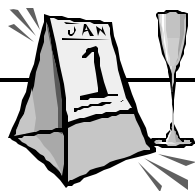
Look who's ranked # 8
in the Sailing Word
College Rankings!

1. Queen's
2. Harvard
3. Tufts
4. Dartmouth
5. Hobart/WmSmith

6. Old Dominion
7. Kings Point
- 8. Texas**
9. St. Mary's
10. Charleston



Congrats!!!



2001 Red Eye Regatta

Join the fun!

When: Monday, January 1, 2001

Schedule: 10:00

Breakfast

Where: Austin Yacht Club

11:00 am – Noon

Registration

Who: All spinnaker & non-spinnaker PHRF boats

12:15 pm

Skipper's Meeting

Entry: \$10 for Keel Fleet Members

1:30 pm

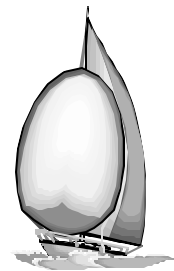
Warning Signal

\$15 for non-Keel Fleet Members

Format: One race around the AYC Permanent Marks

Before the Race: Breakfast tacos, Texas Caviar, Mimosas (\$3.50)

After the Race: Trophy Presentation
Beer and Snacks



The regatta is open to all PHRF boats. Eligible boats may be entered by completing registration with the Keel Handicap Fleet at the Austin Yacht Club. At registration, a rating certificate must be presented or be on file with the Austin Yacht Club.

Bruce Cup

18th Annual North American Inter-district Laser Regatta

The team of Eric Faust and Fred Schroth took first in the Laser Division.

Steven Gay and crew took first in the Laser II Division.

The team of John Bowden and Patrick Reynolds took first in the Laser Radial Division.

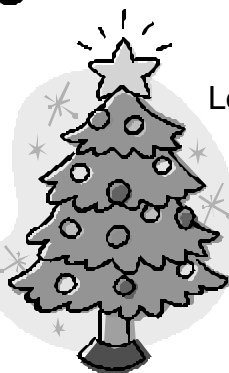
Congratulations!

Great Sailing!

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 16, 2000 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Santa is coming to AYC!



Lots of fun with...

- Face Painting
- Crafts
- Games



Finger foods for kids...

- Corn Dogs & Chips
- Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches





Austin Yacht Club
5906 Beacon Drive
Austin, Texas 78734 -1428

Many ***thanks*** to AYC Regatta Sponsors!

Bartlett & Banks Sails
Sail & Ski Center
The Sailboat Shop
Travis Graphics
West Marine

