

Telltale



May 2001

Monthly Newsletter

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Vice Commodore	Vic Manning
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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

info@austinyachtclub.org
www.austinyachtclub.org

AYC Business Hours

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

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

Closed Mondays

Club Holidays

New Year's Day	1 January
Easter Sunday	15 April
Independence Day	4 July
Thanksgiving Day	22 November
Shopping Day	23 November
Christmas Day	25 December

From the Commodore

We are fast approaching the busiest time of the year at AYC. There's a way for everyone to enjoy the club any day of the week! The Summer Series continues for five Sundays through mid-June as the club's prime event. Between now and the end of September, Lasers and Sunfish sail every Wednesday evening until dark, and the informal beer can racing on Fridays offer an excellent way to begin the weekend. The JY-15 fleet is planning to sail on Saturday evenings. After the races, refreshments are usually available to enjoy while re-living the day's excitement.



Top-notch sail training for all ages and skill levels will be available this summer. Preparations are well underway for our summer camp where training will be provided for beginning to advanced youth sailors daily for four weeks in June. A very talented staff of local and outside instructors has been assembled. They will tailor the program to the skill level of the students to be sure that everyone gets the appropriate level of instruction. The ever popular Peanut

Butter and Jelly Series exposes very young folks (with a parent present) to the water, boats, and sailing. Adult learn to sail programs are also planned. See Claude Welles' article for details. A seminar on the revised rules that went into effect on April first will also be conducted.

Most of the training fleet has been replaced in the past two years, and several new boats have been acquired, so that first-class equipment is available for these educational opportunities. With this equipment and the talent that is available just at AYC, it is easy for someone to grow from a neophyte to a world-class sailor if they want to.

Whether you aspire to go to the Olympics, skipper or crew in a series race, get a Sunfish around the course on Wednesday, or go sailing for the pure pleasure of it, there will be something for everyone, almost any day, all summer long. Almost sounds like a Beach Boys' song!

Phil

AYC Calendar

May 20	Summer Series #3	June 13	Laser/Sunfish Series
May 23	Laser/Sunfish Series	June 15	Beer Can Series
May 25	Beer Can Series	June 16-17	Turn Back Regatta
May 26	Memorial Day Weekend	June 18-22	Jr. Sailing Day Camp #3
May 30	Laser Sunfish Series	June 20	Laser/Sunfish Series
		June 22	Beer Can Series
June 1	Beer Can Series	June 23	PB&J #3
June 2	PB&J Camp #1 Night Race #1	June 23-24	Thistle Districts
June 3	Summer Series #4	June 25-29	Jr. Sailing Day Camp #4
June 4-8	Jr. Sailing Day Camp #1	June 27	Laser/Sunfish Series
June 6	Laser/Sunfish Series	June 29	Beer Can Series
June 8	Beer Can Series	June 30	PB&J #4 J/80 Circuit
June 9	PB&J Camp #2		
June 10	Summer Series #5	July 1	J/80 Circuit
June 11-15	Jr. Sailing Day Camp #2		

Thirteen students attended the US Sailing Basic Race Management Seminar on Sunday, April 22. Jim Tichenor, a US Sailing National Race Officer from Houston Yacht Club, was the head instructor. The topics covered included: RC objectives, competition formats, sailing instructions, RC jobs, RC equipment, race day preparations, setting the course, starts, during the race, finishing, post-race RC responsibilities and scoring. Upon completing the seminar and passing the test, stu-

dents have four years to obtain the

required on the water experience for certification.

For those interested in Race Management Certification, but who could not attend this seminar, another is being planned at Lake Canyon Yacht Club. When that date is finalized, it will be published on the TSA web site (www.txsail.org).

Thanks, Gail B.



Seated (L to R) Frank Woodul, Phil Spletter, Paul Brandner, and Bob Meyers. Standing (L to R): Jim Johnstone, Marcia Mill, Genie Brix, Berry Bowden, Bill Wheat, Bruce Foster, Jim Tichenor, Steve Gay, Vic Manning, Gail Bernstein, Tim Gardner, and Jason Whitley.



Instructors: Vic Manning, Jim Tichenor, and Gail Bernstein

Adult Training Activities

by Claude Welles

About the time you read this, we will have had the second racing skills improvement program of the year, on the evening of May 17. Gail Bernstein is presenting an overview of the racing rules, and will answer any questions that there might be concerning the rules. This will be a little tricky because the new books have been delayed, and probably will not be available in time for the seminar, but we will do our best to present all the new rules. It should be an informative evening for both experienced and new racers.

The first adult beginning learn to sail course of the year is scheduled to begin on Saturday May 26, and will continue for the next two Saturdays. The class is limited to 10 students, and at this time there are still some places left. This is a true beginner class, so if any members know of anybody who would enjoy learning to sail, have them sign up for the course. Contact Claude Welles at 346-0349, or at cawelles@aol.com. for information.

At the April board meeting, the board of directors approved funds for the purchase of several Sunfish to upgrade that fleet which is used for so many of our training activities. We still have some money available, and are looking for a few more of the new style Sunfish with the rolled hull-deck joint; 1988 or newer models. We hope to get to the point where the entire fleet of club owned boats are of the newer style within the next few years, as the existing boats have been used/abused/repared beyond their useful lives, and are at least 20 years old. If any members have the new style Sunfish that they want to trade in to get newer boats, and would consider selling their old boat to the club, please contact either Tim McKenna or Claude Welles.

From the Office. . .



"AYC Pool will be closed for cleaning at 9:00 p.m. Sunday Evening to Tuesday at 1:00 pm. every week, except for Memorial and Labor Day weekends. On holiday weekends, the pool will close at 9:00 p.m. Monday and re-open on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m."

JUNIOR OPTIMIST DINGHY

SUMMER USE PROGRAM

Two Optimist Dinghies have been selected for use by junior sailors on a "check-out" basis.

The boats may be used for day sailing within the main basin only.

A one-week prior reservation is required, and a Senior Member must be present at checkout and checkin.

Please call the Office (266-1336) or Bill Hawk (266-4661) for more information.



A Scoring Committee Report

by Barry Thornton, Scoring Committee Co-coordinator

We hope you all are having a good year racing. There are several noteworthy items we would like to bring forward concerning scoring, the first of which is a giant THANK YOU to:

Jo Ann Welles for scoring Frostbite

Larry Ratliff for scoring Spring Series

Lynn Lilly for scoring Roadrunner.

Mary Sikora for ably stepping in and filling the holes, solving problems, and finding new ways keep the system working.

There are several projects going on in scoring as we have been trying some new techniques to improve the service we render in scoring the races. One of these has been to try to get the race results in off the RC Boat before the Committee gets back to the harbor during end-of series races. The goal here is to get results up on the board early and the technique has been to radio the results in for entry so that when the Committee Boat gets in we need only check the results. Notwithstanding the effects of Protests this means we can get end-of-series races scored and posted early for both trophy and general use. A little California-like instant gratification going on here.

We have also been setting up a system to provide more information to other Committees here at the club. One such activity is a report to the Membership Committee as to participation by new (probationary) members. The other is a report to the Harbor Committee of participation for the purpose of policing the assignment of slips to those who participate, thus getting us out of the marina business and back into racing

Another thing we have been working on is getting the results of the series races onto the web site. This is one of those items that has been a bit tricky and we are getting the bugs out of it. We hope to make this a regular feature of the web page in the very near future. Thanks to Ken Jolly for his persistence and tenacity in achieving this goal.

A part of Ken's torture has been our software. AYC uses a software package recommended by US Sailing but it is a bit on the older side. It lacks an HTML generator and a few other cool 21st Century features and we have all complained, that is bitched and moaned, about it. But in reviewing it and other software on the market we have found that it really works quite well. It may be a little awkward to figure out the first time but everything we need is there and works and functions flawlessly. For the time being this is probably the best package we can get. Hats off to Mary for originally researching and finding this package. To make it easier for use another of our projects then has been to create a simple and more intuitive manual for this scoring program as that seems to be the biggest real problem with it.

In addition we are slowly cleaning out our competitor's database. Our system will hold up to 1,000 boats, we are at 965 now, and typically only 50 boats race so it is clear we are carrying a lot of dead wood in terms of files. We have been removing anyone who has not raced in three years on this pass. When in doubt we call the boat owner and verify their activity. If you have not raced in a while you might check with use by contacting me at bthornton@clearacube.com.

Two final items. One is that we are considering offering the withholding of scoring as a sanction for Fleet Captains to use against those individuals who conscientiously decide to avoid their responsibilities to do Race Committee Duty. For those who feel they are above the system (who are also sometimes the biggest 'mouths' about what they don't like) accountability is on the way.

The other is that we are looking for new volunteers to learn and help in the scoring process. If you want to see how it all really works then this is the education to get, this is where it all converges, this is where you see the 'big picture', come join us.

Any ideas on how we can improve service please let us know. Regards, Barry

INVITATION: You are cordially invited to participate in the 2001 Turn Back Regatta hosted by the Austin Yacht Club on beautiful Lake Travis in Austin, Texas

DATE: Saturday, June 16th and Sunday, June 17th, 2001.

ELIGIBILITY/EVENT: A two-day, two-race regatta open to monohull keel boats, centerboard boats, and multihull boats. On Saturday, all boats will race up the lake to between Arkansas Bend and Therman Bend and back. On Sunday, all boats will race in the basin of Lake Travis.

CLASSES: A minimum of five boats will constitute a one-design fleet, a level racing fleet, or a sports boat fleet, if desired. Keel handicap classes will be divided into spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes and will use the PHRF of Lake Travis handicap rating system. Centerboard and Beach Cats will utilize the most recent U.S. Sailing Portsmouth Yardstick.

RULES AND EQUIPMENT: This regatta will be governed by the 2001-2004 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association (US SAILING), the rules of each class concerned (except as any of these are altered by the regatta sailing instructions), and by the regatta sailing instructions. Sailing instructions will be available during registration. Registration will not be accepted for boats without numbers on their main sails and spinnakers.

SCORING: The Low Point Scoring System described in Appendix A of the 2001-2004 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except as modified by the sailing instructions, will be used.

PHRF CERTIFICATE: Measurement is not required, but each boat racing in any PHRF handicap class must have a PHRF Handicap Certificate on file with AYC or must complete one at registration.

TROPHIES: Trophies will be awarded to the winning helmsman and crew within each class as follows:

2-4 entries	1 trophy
5-7 entries	2 trophies
8-10 entries	3 trophies
11-14 entries	4 trophies
15+ entries	5 trophies

FACILITIES There are limited campsites available on the AYC grounds. Showers and restrooms are available to all regatta participants and guests. Some cabins and screened shelters are available for rent. Please contact the AYC office at 266-1336 for availability. Some other nearby lodging options include:

Furnished Lakeway rentals:	800-428-7729
Vintage Villas	512-266-9333
Mountain Star Lodge & Hotel	512-263-2010
Lake Travis Inn & RV Park	512-266-9329

PETS and FIREWORKS are STRICTLY PROHIBITED on AYC grounds.

GENERAL Visit the AYC web site at www.austinyachtclub.org for the e-mail registration form, directions and other information concerning the club. **Fax your registration to: 266-9804. For information, call: 266-1336**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 13th 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 15th 6:00 p.m.

6:00-8:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 16th 8:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

7:00-11:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 17th 8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Check-in and late registration opens.

Skippers may pick up sailing instructions.

Social hour. Music, beer and munchies.

Check-in and late registration closes for the evening.

Check-in and late registration opens.

Complimentary continental breakfast served.

Check-in and late registration closes.

Skippers' meeting. Skippers must be checked in before the skippers' meeting.

Warning signal for the first race.

After the race: Complimentary beer and iced tea.

ALL YOU CAN EAT Chicken Fried Steak dinner served.

Dance to the music of **LEGACY**

Complimentary continental breakfast served.

Warning signal for the second race.

After the race: Complimentary lunch, beer and iced tea.

TROPHY PRESENTATION

AYC Junior Sailing

Tim Arnold

The AYC Board approved the Sail Training Junior Sailing Committee Goals and Mission for our juniors. We now have two new Vanguard C420's in addition to our new club Optimist prams. All we need is sailors!

Tuesday May 15 at 7:00 PM was a meeting to provide information about the AYC Junior Sailing Program and other Junior Sailing activities across the state presented by Joanne Kolius. Please come out with your young ones and find out more about Junior Sailing.

Some of our Juniors went to Dallas for the CYC Junior Regatta on White Rock Lake, May 5-6. Next Tell-tale will have the results from that Regatta and the Lakewood Yacht Club "Shoe Regatta" this year sponsored by Volvo of Clear Lake. May 19-20. The Lakewood event coincides with The Big Boat Regatta in the Bay. This is the fifth TSA Junior Circuit Regatta this year.

White Rock	CSC	May 5-6	Tom Forgue Tforgue@swbell.net
Volvo Jr. Regatta	LYC	May 19-20	Walter Bernard bernhou@ix.netcom.com 281-493-2560
Area F qualifier	CCYC	June 9-10	Sandi Carl lajoya@msn.com
Bemis, Symthe			
Helping Hands	CLYC	June 16-17	Scott Self scott@prosoap.com
Changes in Latitude	CCYC	June 23-24	Sandi Carl lajoya@msn.com
JO Texas Race Week	TCYC	July 14-15	De Sha Norwood norwood1113@cs.com
			Paul Francis pfrancis@baker-hostetler.com 713-646-1334
	LYC	July 17-18	Walter Bernard
	HYC	July 20-21	Chris Ward 281-618-1872
Cannonball Run	Palacious	August 25-26	Warren Pierce 800-556-0534
O'I Man of the Sea	FWBC	Sept 8-9	Finlay Higgins Finlay.r.Higgins@DAL.FRB.ORG 817-792-3874
Endless Summer	SSC	Oct 29-30	Craig Chambers Sail90@aol.com 281-280-8603
Fall Dinghy Fest	RCYC	Oct 20-21	Jim Bookhout jbookhout@henry.com 972-771-1740
West Marine	AYC	Nov 3	



NIGHT RACE June 2nd, 2001

For information, call 266-1336

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2001 Night Race hosted by the Austin Yacht Club on beautiful Lake Travis in Austin, Texas on Saturday, June 2nd, 2001.

EVENT: A one-race regatta open to monohulls, keelboats, cruising multihull boats, and trimarans. All boats will sail a course defined at the Skippers' meeting. The start/finish line will be two yellow tetrahedrons at the mouth of the cove, and the rounding mark will be a temporary mark designated by an AYC chase boat in the vicinity between Arkansas and Thurman depending on the wind. One race will constitute the regatta.

FORMAT: The format will be a reverse handicap start — those boats with a PHRF handicap of 300 starting first and the fastest boats starting last. The official starting times for all PHRF numbers will be posted during the Skippers' meeting. The PHRF of Lake Travis Handicap Rating System will be used with Time-on-Distance. Any boat without a rating can receive one at the event registration.

SCORING and TROPHIES: First boat across the finish line will be declared the winner; subsequent places being awarded to subsequent boats. Trophies will be awarded to the first 3 boats in each fleet.

RULES AND EQUIPMENT: This regatta will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association (US SAILING), the rules of each class concerned (except as any of these are altered by the regatta sailing instructions), by the regatta sailing instructions, and by the Coast Guard and State Safety Regulations. Sailing instructions will be available during registration. All boats will be required to have properly working lights. **Registration will not be accepted for boats without identical numbers on their mainsails and spinnakers. It is recommended that all skippers familiarize themselves with water depths between AYC and Lakeway.**

FACILITIES: There are limited campsites available on the AYC grounds. Showers and restrooms are available to all regatta participants and guests. Some cabins and screened shelters are available for rent. Please contact the AYC office at 266-1336 for cabin rentals. **Pets and fireworks are strictly prohibited on AYC grounds.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Saturday, June 2nd.

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.	Registration.
	\$25.00/boat, less
	\$5.00 US Sailing Discount
	Complimentary beverages
6:15 p.m.	Skippers' meeting
7:00 p.m.	Starting interval begins

After the race: Complimentary meal and beverages

TROPHY PRESENTATION

A Time to Replace Your Battery?

by Barry Thornton

Most boats here at the club have a lead-acid battery for power (lights, bilge pump, blender, you know, the important stuff). Most you know have also noticed that these batteries don't last as long as they do in your car. The reason for this is the when left alone, lead-acid batteries sulfate, that is crystals grow on the lead plates in the battery effectively reducing the usable area on the plates and thus the power the battery can deliver. There is a solution to this problem that can extend the life of the battery to years and keep it charged.

While doing some research on another matter I came across a patent for desulfating lead-acid batteries. Below are 5 references to this technology.

<http://www.solartech.com/index2.htm>

<http://www.docon.com/~battery/>

http://www.batterymaintenance.com/battery/pulsetech/products/pulse_recovery.htm

<http://www.delphion.com/details?pn=US06184649>

<http://www.delphion.com/details?pn=US06184650>

Being the character that I am I saw a way around the patent to accomplish the same result but easier and cheaper. As I am now adding a 6th battery to my boat I thought it would be a good idea to protect my investment so I laid out a small (1" by 2") printed circuit board for the desulfater and ordered some. Add a couple of bucks worth of parts to the board and a solar panel and we get a device that keeps the charge up and reverses the aging of the battery.

Sooo, here's the deal, I'm going to build 6 for my boat, do you want one too? If you do, contact me (email, don't phone, bthornton@clearcube.com) and I will make up a list. When it looks like requests have stopped Ill total it (+5% for spares), figure the parts cost on the total volume, divide it by the number of requests, and get a per unit cost including solar cells. I will find some one to build (solder) them, add that into the cost, and send you the analysis. If you are still interested we will execute the build and you get a unit.

This is a friendly offer to peers, it is not a business deal, there is no profit, it is costing me time. As such don't expect customer service, you are on your own in making the decision to do this (see the above URLs) and you are on your own to install it. I will provide written instructions and the hardware to do it but take no responsibility for anything other than assuring you get a working unit and there are some replacement spares in the event of a failure. OK, there's the deal, check the URLs and let me know. Regards, Barry

D-Fleet Report

by Barry Thornton, D-Fleet Captain

D-Fleet report is short and sweet this month. Hats off to Steve Ehlers and the cohort that drove Endorfin to win the Spring Series. Steve Bangs took second and John Vance in third. Congratulations to all.

We look forward to fielding 18 boats for the Summer series. With good weather predicted we hope to make this a competitive series and a lot of fun.

Welcome to our new members and good racing to all.



Ensign Fleet News

By Carolyn Wilsford

Well, a big congratulations to George Dahmen and his crew for the Spring Regatta. These guys came in 1st in their fleet!! Winds were 20 to 25, with gusts up to 35 and two boats snapped their masts to give you an idea of the sailing conditions. Tim McKenna and his crew took 5th!!! Great finish for the first regatta in their new Ensign. I was doing race committee and counted over forty boats in the regatta. Boats were planing that day. A great day for the few Ensigns that were out.

Speaking of participation, we are going to start pot luck dinners for families of Ensign owners.

I'll do the calling at least one night before the Sunday races and try to get one sampling of meats, vegetables and starches to share. I'm open to ideas, call me at 266-1220.

Just a reminder for our RC series race. It's June 3rd. I'm already looking for volunteers. Call me and let me know if you are available.

See you on the line Ensigns!!

An Apology, an Observation, and a Solution

by Barry Thornton, D-Fleet Captain, bthornton@clearcube.com

An Apology - I would personally like to offer an apology to those affected or inconvenienced by RC during the April 8th Series race. The effects of being short handed, a lack of experience, and high winds delayed the race (Start pin came loose) as well as made it prudent for us to run all the races around the permanent marks rather than setting temporary ones for the race. This most affected the three Center Board participants the most; again, I apologize for the inconvenience.

An observation - The problem of being short-handed does cause me to reflect on this issue. We had two sets of problems. The most obvious is those who commit to help but don't show up. Sometimes situations arise that force a change in plans. All Fleet Captains face issue with the same level of pain; a phone call wouldn't hurt.

But the bigger problem is those who habitually avoid their responsibility to their Fleet and RC. From those I have talked to I get the feeling that this is becoming a pervasive problem. In the race in question we actually had someone try to check in on the water to race in D-fleet (of course we didn't have a start) who said he couldn't do committee for another reason and obviously forgot this misrepresentation.

Our problem is that there are members in this club who race and have no intention of doing RC. It would appear that we really have to change this and one way appears to be coming up with a sanction system for those who wish to avoid their social responsibilities.

In joining this club and a fleet each of us has volunteered to act as responsible adults and fulfill our commitments. All of us volunteered, John Locke's 'social contract' is in effect here, and I think it's high time to enforce it.

A solution - In this document I am proposing to the Fleet Captains that individuals so recalcitrant as to not live up to their social responsibility should simply not be scored on the rest of that series or on a subsequent series. I appreciate that this is a harsh and heavy-handed approach, but the tendency of some to race in every race and avoid the RC duty is an act of high arrogance by a flawed character that should be countered by an equally audacious reaction. Why should we who are conscientious about our duty be so compromised by those 'social sponges'? Obviously there are legitimate reasons for not helping out, there are also patterns of abuse, and I propose we go after those abusers. From my position of Scoring Coordinator I find the mechanism to implement this sanction close at hand and after the last RC experience there is certainly motivation.

Is it time to stand up for what we know is right? What do you think?

April was another busy month for the J/24 fleet with the Spring Series finishing up, the Spring Regatta and the Cowtown Stampede circuit stop at Ft. Worth Boat Club all going on last month. And May is looking to be just as exciting, but more on that later....9 different J/24s came out for the AYC Spring Series. Dave Broadway and his crew whipped up on the fleet to win it overall, congratulations to the "Superman" team! Greg Buck's "Yikes!" team took second and Allyn Johnson's sometime shorthanded "Ray Ban" team rounded out the top 3. Here are the complete scores as posted in the Clubhouse:

Superman

4	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	8
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Yikes!

1	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	14
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Ray Ban

3	3	3	2	6	6	3	3	17
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Double Trouble

2	5	-	-	2	4	-	-	21
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Out of Control

7	6	1	3	5	5	4	4	22
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3 Sheets to the Wind

6	4	-	-	-	-	5	2	25
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Aeolian

-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	25
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Trojan Horse

-	-	-	-	-	-	2	DNF	31
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Ohh-Ahh!

5	WDR	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
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With the Cowtown Stampede being the same weekend as the Spring Regatta, the J/24 fleet split up to cover both events with good results. Our Commodore raced "Double Trouble" to victory in his class at the Spring Regatta. The traveling fleet picked up 3 of the top ten spots at Eagle Mountain Lake with Roger Harden's "Running on Empty" team having the best overall finish of the Austin contingent (which numbered seven by the way) with a second overall. The wind was way up for both events on Saturday, and for the first time I can remember, cir-

cuit racing was abandoned on Sunday due to too much wind (RC measured 42+ knots!).

The fleet took a break the last week of April so the South Coast Fleet could have the run of the lake for their championships but was back in action the first week of May to run RC for the opening races of Summer Series. The fleet really came through for RC, we had almost twice as many people as we needed show up! Our PRO, Phil Spletter, kept things flowing very well for our first RC duty under the new starting sequence. And everybody enjoyed the sandwiches and great microbrew selection afterwards...Thanks to our Fleet Captain, Leon Lance, and Social Chair, Robbie Nelson for that! These two also had a nice surprise to discuss with the fleet members that came out; previewing the new area that the Fleet picnic tables and smoker are being planned for! That's right, we are getting close to having our own party area under the trees near the North ramp (where alot of us spend our time before and after races anyway). Look for an e-mail notice for a work party soon to make this happen...contact Leon if you have comments, etc.

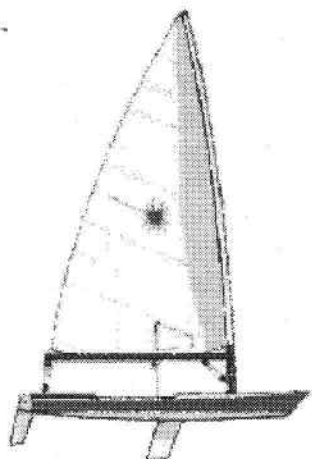
As May continues we have 3 more Fleet events on the calendar. With RC duty behind us we can start Summer Series racing in earnest, including a Fleet cookout after the races May 20th (look for a US Mail flyer on this). The J/24 US Southwest Regional Championships (a.k.a. the Dallas stop of the J/24 circuit) is May 12 and 13. This year boat measurement is available the Friday before by appointment, if you need something done to complete your certificate, check out the district website for measurement information, the NOR and the Entry form at <http://home.austin.rr.com/j24district14/NOR.html>. And of course at the end of the month is the J/24 North American Championships at Houston Yacht Club. It starts with measurement as required and registration May 29th with 3 days of international championship J/24 racing on May 31, June 1 and June 2 (check it out at <http://www.j24na.com/>).

Hope to see you on the water soon!

Regards, Eric Nelson, Austin J/24 Fleet Reporter

Laser Fleet News

by Claude Welles



For those of you who missed the fleet party/clinic in April, you missed some of the interesting rigging tips used by the pros. Eric Faust showed us how he rigs the boat, the lines he uses, and the little tricks that add up to big gains on the racecourse. Meanwhile the rest of us feasted on free barbecue and beer, and a good time was had by all. We are fortunate to have skilled racers like Eric who will share some of the tricks of the trade with the rest of us, and if we are lucky he may do it again some time.

The first Wednesday night races were moderately attended, but the breeze was up, and the sailing was fun and challenging. Fred and Eric enjoyed the big breeze and showed good speed whenever they wanted; and Eric Rochard demonstrated that a radial rig can be as fast as a full rig both upwind and down, and is a lot easier to keep under control. The rest of you guys better get going, or the early birds will have had the practice to keep you at the back of the fleet for the rest of the summer. The water is warming up, and the days are long....., so let's go Laser sailing!

Pre-Notice of a Great Up Coming Race

Centerboard Regatta — July 7-8

"If there's a better post-Fourth of July event I sure don't know about it"

Arnold Ratnick, Racer Extraordinaire

Some of the most challenging racing around, come join us

Call your friends, tell everyone you know!

-- Food -- Fun -- Party -- Trophies --

The sweet satisfaction of one-on-one competition

Sunfish Back In Action

by Paul Jensen

Wednesday, May 2 marked the first evening of Sunfish-Laser racing for the summer. There was no shortage of wind or good competition, with as many as 12 boats on the line. Folks near the front included Kevin Reynolds, Joanne Weberlein, and Larry Hill with lots of others in close pursuit. Conditions were great for building skills.

The 16th will be Fleet 70 championship scoring night, and it will also be Pot Luck dinner night. The Southwest Regionals will be held June 15-17 at the Houston Yacht Club. If you'd like more information or registration forms, let me or Joanne know. See you on the water.

Catalina 22s Get Ready to Fly Their Chutes

by Jon Fitch

Get your chute out of the bag and start running the tape! Summer Series is here and the format is Spinnaker. For those of you who don't have a chute or would rather not fly one, we will award



Dane Ohe and crew at Spring Regatta

one non-spinnaker trophy. Also, starting this series, the fleet will begin awarding two perpetual trophies: one for the Most Improved Skipper, and one for the Most Improved Crew. No matter where you normally place in the fleet you will be in contention for some hardware. Please tell your crew that they too are in contention for a trophy! Trophies will be awarded based on the consensus of the fleet.



Mac is back! Dr. McIntyre is back on the water after a hip replacement.

crew Michael Bussey, Wallace Harwood, and

The Spring Series had a total of 16 boats including Pete Harper with crew Dave Rehberg and Harold Downey, Ted Owens with crew Dennis Tye and Steve Starr, Wade Bingham with

Ken Whiteside, Larry Hill with crew Rocky Hutchison and Lane Thomas, Jon Fitch with crew Jenny Loehlin, Jim Johnstone, George and Paul Robison, Roy Crouse with crew Jeff Raun and James Moore, David Grogono, Steve and Cheryl Pervier, Paul Brander with crew Lisa Thompson, Chris Thomas with crew Chris Thompson, Bob Jones with long time crew Jim Hayden, Mac McIntyre with crew Tom Romberg, and Omar Zia with crew Angie Pack and Dave Coie. The last race was a windy one! D-Fleet gave us a long course around the permanent marks, and then the same course all over again. Final standings were: 1st - Pete Harper, 2nd - Ted Owens, 3rd - Wade Bingham, 4th - Larry Hill, 5th - Jon Fitch, and 6th - Jim Johnstone.



Omar Zia and crew Angie Pack.

For Spring Regatta, the C22's made a fleet with 5 boats. The day was overcast with heavy air. On my Davis knot meter, I measured 17-18 knots sustained with puffs of 23-24 knots and higher. The winds were so strong, I didn't see very many spinnakers flying. The order of finishes was 1st Place - George Robison and Paul Jensen, 2nd Place - Tom Gardiner on Ted Owens with crew Dennis Tye and Steve Starr.



Ted Owens with crew Dennis Tye and Steve Starr.

Continued at top of next page

Half Fast, 3rd Place- Dane Ohe on Kanaloa, 4th Place – Paul Brandner on Lake Lizard, and 5th Place – Bob Jones on Siddhartha. Way to go Dumbol! Nice second place finish Tom!

In case you haven't looked at your race calendar in the back of the AYC Handbook, our fleet has race committee duty on May 20th for the 3rd race of Summer Series. Please make plans to be there and help the fleet do our part in supporting AYC series racing. A big thanks to John Grzinich for being the C22 fleet representative for race committee for Spring Regatta. And a big thanks to Ted Owens and Larry Hill for serving as race committee to help out the South Coast fleet with their Intergalactic Championship Regatta.

The Catalina 22 Region 8 Championships are coming up May 18-20th at the Lake Worth Sailing Club in Fort Worth. Last I heard, Ted Owens and Pete Harper were going. While there, Ted plans to put in a bid for our fleet to host the Region 8 Championships next year.

In other news, the fleet has yet another new member, Neil Jones. Neil moved to Austin from southern Georgia, where he and his son did a lot of racing on 505's and Snipes. He just bought a Catalina 22 and joined AYC. Please welcome Neil to the fleet! That's all for now . . . see you on the water! Jon

NOTICE OF RACE
SUNFISH SOUTHWEST REGIONALS And FIRST ANNUAL --
DUST OFF YOUR SUNFISH NOVICE REGATTA
JUNE 15-17, 2001
HOUSTON YACHT CLUB - - HOUSTON, TEXAS

For more information, Contact:

John Kolius: KO Sailing 281-291-9500, jkolius@cs.com

Barbara Brownback: 713-790-0290(h) or 713-626-1112 (w), b-bback@swbell.net

Houston Yacht Club, 281-471-1255, www.houstonyachtclub.org

Road Warriors

by Phil Spletter



The blustery conditions that were present for the Spring Regatta prevailed over Texas that weekend. The AYC Sunfish fleet made an excellent showing at Canyon Lake for the State Championships. Jerry Parlee finished 3rd, Joanne Kolius 5th, and Kevin Reynolds 6th overall. Bill Gerloff, Larry Hill, Pat Manning, and Vicki Stones also made the trip. That same weekend, the J/24 fleet was in Ft. Worth. See the fleet's article for complete details. May will be a busy month for the J/24 fleet. There is another circuit stop May 12 and 13 at Rush Creek then onto Houston for the J/24 NAs at the end of the month. Despite the Houston venue, the NAs have been organized primarily by Eric and Robbie Nelson, the J/24 district governor.

I was fortunate to sail a race off Galveston with Steve Spurlin, Jeff Jones and a crew from Dallas and Belton on Jeff's dad's Aerodyne 38. After sailing the previous afternoon and night, we completed the 90 mile race just before sunrise, blasting down the Galveston jetties with a 2000 sq ft asymmetrical 'chute in 15-18 knots of breeze to close the gap on a 48 footer ahead of us to win the race. What a HOOT!

Good luck to the UT sailing team, currently ranked seventeenth in the country. They are heading to the east coast for a series of national championships. Hook 'em!

Finally, Jamie Thompson got a berth for the last two legs of the BT Challenge. She left Cape Town, South Africa on May 5th for La Rochelle, France on Quadstone. After that, it's on to Southampton, England for the finish. Check out the website (btchallenge.com). She'll have a personal journal archived there whenever she's "(a) not seasick (b) not sleeping (c) feel like typing in 110F heat in a steel can in the tropics." She's going to have pictures and stories to tell so we'll try to have a reception when she gets back.

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at the Lake Worth Sailing Club
While there, we plans to put in

Vic & Pat Manning
5805 Lakeside Trail
Austin, Texas 78734
#1662

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Austin Yacht Club
5906 Beacon Drive
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