



Easter Laser Regatta

A 30 Year Tradition at AYC

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Save the Date

Spring Series
April 14, 21

Scott Young Start Clinic
April 20

US Sailing Level 1 Instructor Course
April 27-28 and May 4-5

Summer Series
April 28, May 5, 19

Basic Keel Boat Clinic
May 4

Spring Women's Clinic
May 11

Turnback Canyon Regatta
May 25-26



Cover photo by Bruce McDonald

SCOTT YOUNG DINGHY START CLINIC



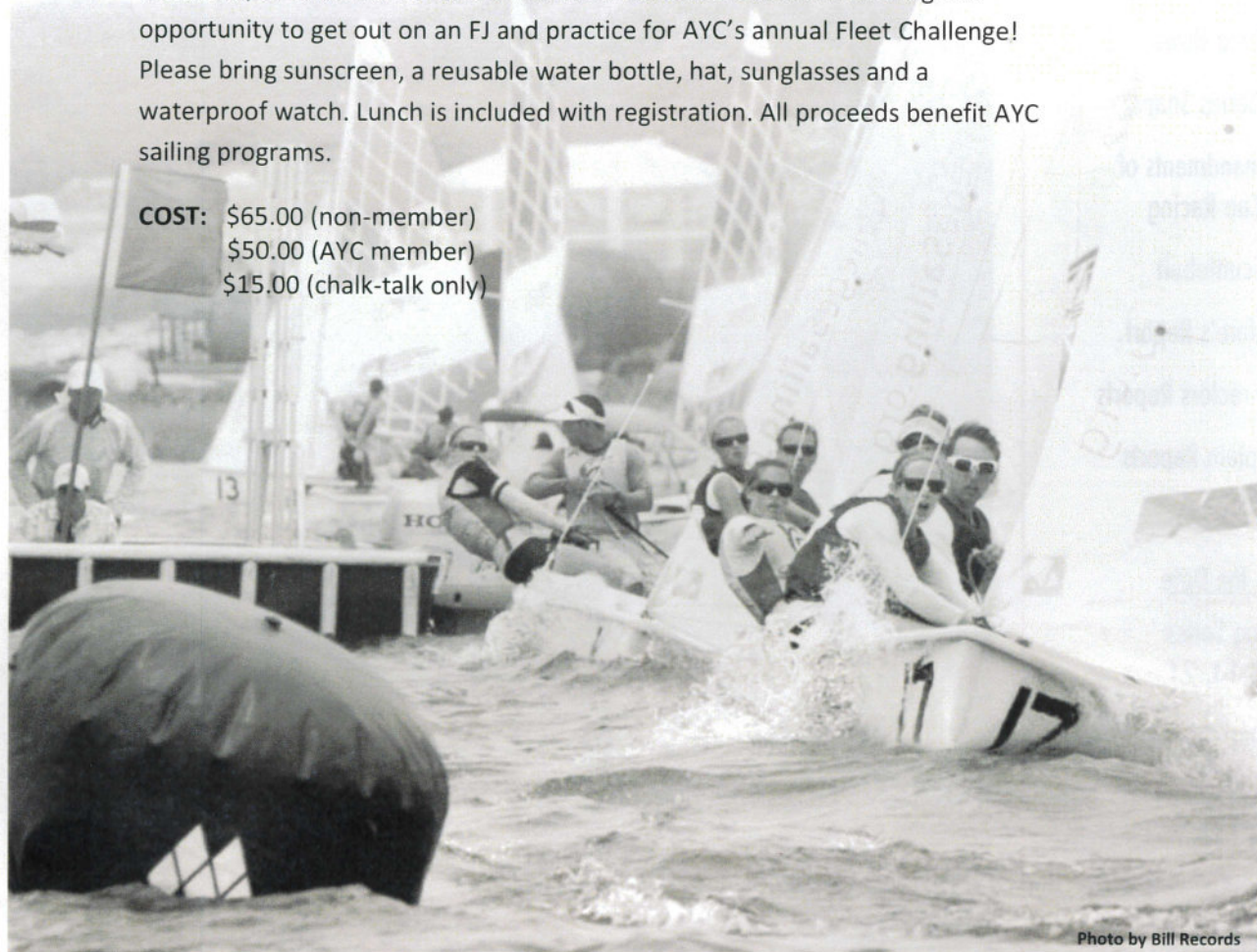
Saturday, April 20th 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

5906 Beacon Drive, Austin TX 78734

Adult and junior sailors are invited to work on starts with world-class sailor and instructor, Scott Young. Borrow an AYC Opti, FJ, Laser, or Sunfish, bring your own boat, or take it all in from a front row seat on the dock. This is a great opportunity to get out on an FJ and practice for AYC's annual Fleet Challenge! Please bring sunscreen, a reusable water bottle, hat, sunglasses and a waterproof watch. Lunch is included with registration. All proceeds benefit AYC sailing programs.

COST: \$65.00 (non-member)
\$50.00 (AYC member)
\$15.00 (chalk-talk only)



For more information and registration, visit austinyachtclub.net or call Sailing Director Kate Noble at (512) 266-1336

Race Calendar and Non-Racing Events have moved to page 22

From The Commodore

by Christopher Dwight



With the start of spring and a return of long evenings, activities at your club are heating up. In addition to the recent Easter Laser Regatta and Road Runner Regattas, we are seeing the return of Beer Can races, Wednesday evening Laser and Sunfish races, and the fast-upcoming Turnback Canyon Regatta. Be sure to get out to your club and enjoy all the great activity and camaraderie.

With permits in place and bids being selected, you should soon begin to see some substantial improvements to your club. These will include paving some of the lower-level access areas, extending our primary North Ramp to the current lake level, and execution of an order for a replacement Dock 2. I am excited to see these major capital improvements underway. These projects will add value and improve our club operations for years to come.

I look forward to seeing each of you out at the club soon, or better still, on the water!

Race Commander Report

by Barry Bowden



All yacht clubs have their own traditions, but the Austin Yacht Club is home to a very special tradition that has been going on for 30 years now. It is the Easter Laser Regatta hosted by **Fred Schroth**, of Schroth Fiberglass, with help from his wife **Sally**, with quite a few of his friends and customers helping out.

It is very simple to tell when the Easter Laser Regatta will be held. The date will always be the weekend after the first full moon following the spring equinox, or something like that. I always wondered how they managed to come up with that idea.

Anyway, this regatta is symbolic of everything that makes the sport of racing sailboats so very special. I do not know of any sport or activity that can take the 44 individuals who participated this year, put them all in near identical boats, and have the wide range of ages and skill levels compete on the same playground. We had Olympic medalists, multiple time winners of the US Sailing Mallory Cup, world champion Laser sailors, teenage boys and girls, and a new member who was just out learning to sail a Laser for the first time all competing together at the same time.

This is quite a mixture of people and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves quite well. I always consider myself fortunate to have discovered a sport that is this diverse and never seems to lose its interest. I am glad that our club is trying to spread the message with our increased effort in sail training.

In other news, we have a new motor on Chase 2 and new steering on the committee boat. Thanks to **Tom Cunningham** for taking care of both of these issues. All of our boats now have easy steering that compensates for the torque of the motor.

There will be a seminar on Saturday April 13 on race management with emphasis on races at Austin Yacht Club. All members are encouraged to attend. **Brad Davis** will be the instructor for this event. Understanding race management is not only essential for managing our races when your fleet has race committee duty, but it will improve your ability to race your own boat more successfully.

Buildings & Grounds Report

by John Saunders



During April, the kitchen cabinets in the clubhouse will be cleaned and restored. Some improvements will be made in order to extend the life and value of the kitchen in general.

We are looking at a complete overhaul of the sprinkler system. Like much of our infrastructure, it was well done when installed; now it is getting tired.

You will notice construction on the North Ramp. The ramp is being deepened. Two more ramp areas will be paved on the lower point.

Unmarked trailers will be painted and the owners billed. Trailer storage on AYC property is for those boats stored here. If you are storing another trailer here, please consider other storage. We are getting full. Now that the season is here, we will need the point as clear as possible.

REMINDER:

An updated AYC directory is in progress. Please verify your personal information is up-to-date with the AYC office so that your data may be captured correctly.

Membership Committee News

by Past Commodore Johannes Brinkmann



Please welcome the following new members who joined AYC in March:

Tanya McGowan recently completed her small boat certification through Charlie Daniels' course at lake Belton.



Tanya McGowan

She would like to race Lasers and also wants to work on a keel boat certification. Tanya, a former yoga instructor, moved from New Orleans where she recently graduated from the LSU Anesthesia School. She is looking forward to the opportunity to crew in races and regattas.

Christopher Crump loves racing and has enjoyed meeting new people at AYC. In the past he sailed in the Bahamas and on Lake Michigan, and more recently he has raced at AYC with **Bill Benker** on his McGregor 26.

In addition, please welcome the following new student members who joined AYC in March:

Julius Heitkoetter
Jack Sorensen
Reagan Schuttger
Cole Hayhurst
Matan Brinkman
Miles Scheifele
Lily Scheifele
Eli Kahn
Anthony Slowik III
Dean Cole



Reagan Schuttger



Dean Cole

Sail Training Report

by Jenny Loehlin



The first adult beginner/intermediate keelboat class of the year took place on March 23. Thanks to **Bill Records** for serving as lead instructor and also to skippers **Bob Stephens**, **Elliott Bray**, **Harry Polly**, and **Bob Mathison**. 15 students participated. We left plenty of wind over for the races the next day. The next beginner/intermediate class will be on May 4.

We've also got a spring Women's Camp coming up on May 11.

Scott Young's starting clinic is scheduled for April 20. We're trying a new format this year using dinghies and setting the course right off the docks.

Now that spring break is over with, attendance at the junior practices on Fridays and Saturdays has been good. Thanks to all the parents who have been bringing their kids out and helping **Coach Kate** with the practices. Enrollment for the summer PB&J program and camp is also coming along nicely.

The skiff motors have had their winter maintenance thanks to **Pat Feagin** and **Tom Cunningham**. By the time this issue hits the newsstands, one of the skiffs should have a new motor.

We're hoping to offer some windsurfing classes this summer – watch the website and restrooms for further information.

AYC Fund News

by Scott Young

The AYC Fund is pleased to introduce our 2013 Board Of Directors. **Stephen Burke**, **Bonnie Odell**, **Renee Ruais**, **Doug Casey**, **JoAnn Welles** and **Scott Young** have all generously agreed to serve on the board for this upcoming year.

The AYC Fund is also excited to announce that the 3rd Annual AYC Fleet Challenge will be held on Saturday, September 28! It is not too early to start organizing your team and chartering FJs for practice. We will be working with **Kate Noble** to organize Saturday FJ Fleet racing in the summer months leading up to the Fleet Challenge. Stay tuned for more information!

Over the past couple of years, the AYC Fund has made key investments to help our sail training program go to the next level. These investments have been especially felt in the area of junior sail training and we expect record levels of junior participation this year. In 2013, the AYC Fund will continue to support sail training at AYC but will also work closely with **Kate Noble** and **Jenny Loehlin** to expand the adult sail training programs. Our junior program is attracting a number of families that have expressed interest in joining AYC but we also want to make sure that the parents of these juniors are properly engaged and excited about learning to sail, crew and eventually race.

In addition to the Annual Fleet Challenge, The AYC Fund is working on plans for a Lake Travis area-wide cruise that will serve to build more awareness of AYC and also serve as an additional annual fund raiser for the AYC Fund. **Doug Casey** will be spearheading this plan so please reach out to Doug if you are interested in helping with this event.

Thank you for your continued support of the AYC Fund!

Sailing Director Report

by Kate Noble



Adult Training

A big thank you to everyone who made the Basic Keel Clinic a success! Our first adult clinic of the Sail Training season went very well despite the light conditions.

AYC will be hosting a US Sailing Level 1 Instructor certification course taught by **Steve Gay**. The course will be held on two consecutive weekends – April 27-28 and May 4-5. This is a fantastic course that teaches candidates the ins and outs of small boat sailing instruction. If you enjoy teaching and/or would like to get more involved in Sail Training activities here at AYC, I highly recommend this course. Registration is available online through ussailing.org.

Next up on our Sail Training calendar is the **Scott Young** Dinghy Start Clinic on April 20. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from one of the best! AYC Optis, Lasers, Sunfish, and FJs will be available to clinic participants at no additional costs. For a discounted chalk-talk only rate, you can sit in on the chalk-talk and then take in the action from a front-row seat on the dock. For more information, see the flyer in this edition of the Telltale.

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook for all the latest Sail Training updates!

Junior Training

The Junior Sailing season is off to a great start! As March comes to a close, we have 34 junior sailors registered for our program, 13 of whom are brand new to AYC! Attendance at weekly practice sessions is at an all time high. Most notably, we have had a steady group of 10 at Saturday afternoon's Laser/FJ practice and we had a record 13 beginners (and two Green Fleet helpers) at Beginners & Basics practice on March 29.

We had several AYC Roadrunners compete at Lake Canyon Yacht Club's TSA Spring Fling Regatta March 16-17. Congratulations to **Meredith** and **Michael Morran** who placed 1st in the 420 fleet, winning all six races!



Meredith and Michael Morran at the TSA Spring Fling Regatta at LCYC (photo by John Morran)

Alexandra Mares finished 4th and **Spencer Legrande** finished 6th in Opti Red Fleet. New member **Tony Slowik** placed 6th in his Opti White fleet debut. In other racing news, **Michael Morran** represented AYC in the 4.7 fleet at the annual Easter Laser Regatta. Congratulations, Roadrunners!

The Roadrunner Fleet Board planned and hosted a work party on March 23. Many thanks to Equipment Manager **Philippe Bettler** for inspecting the boats the week before and for organizing our to-do lists. Also thanks to **Alex Larrouilh**, our Safety Chair, for leading us the day of the event. We rigged up the Opti fleet and made adjustments to the running rigging, replaced worn out hiking straps and airbags, and adjusted rudder hardware and tiller extensions. Our fleet was race-ready for the Roadrunner Regatta! Other tasks accomplished at the work party included: pressure-washing one of the coach skiffs, moving spare sails and parts from the Sail Training cabin to the UT Shed, and deep-cleaning both buildings. Our facilities and boats have never looked better! Thank you to everyone who participated: **Alex Larrouilh**, **Philippe Bettler**, **Will Abrams**, **Michael** and **Alexander Tita**, **Cheryl Butler**, **Chris** and **Gretchen Schuttger**, **the Peel family**, and **the Froelich family**.

We have a very exciting April planned for the junior sailors, starting with the Roadrunner Regatta which was held April 6-7. This annual event is one of the largest youth sailing events in Texas, attracting roughly 100 sailors from across the region each year. For many of our AYC junior sailors, this will be their first Texas Sailing Association regatta. Thank you to our co-regatta chairs, **John Morran** and **Stefan Froelich**, for another successful weekend of youth racing!

On April 14 our Roadrunners will be heading downtown to sail on Lady Bird Lake! Austin Sailboat Rentals is a new boat rental company located at the Holiday Inn off of I-35. They currently have 20 sailboats and have generously offered them to our Roadrunners for an afternoon of sailing free of charge. We will be having a just-for-fun "regatta" and will be sailing down to the Mopac Bridge and back. This is a great opportunity for us to get our name out and make AYC's presence known in the Austin community. Austin Sailboat Rental is hoping to get the local news crews to come out and cover the event!

On April 20, in place of practice, our Opti racers and junior FJ and Laser sailors will be working on their starts with **Scott Young** at the Dinghy Start Clinic. A big thank you to Scott for inviting them to participate!

Summer Youth Programs

The Austin Yacht Club offers both week-long and weekend opportunities to get your kids sailing this summer! Registration for both PB&J and our Junior Sailing Camp is now open and online! Visit the AYC website for registration links and more information. Space is limited and filling up quickly so be sure to register early!

Austin Yacht Club 2013 Summer Youth Programs



The Austin Yacht Club offers summer programming for sailors of all ages and experience!

PB&J Summer Sailing Ages: 4-10

PB&J Summer Sailing is the perfect introduction to sailing for beginners. PB&J meets weekly for 1.5 hours of sailing basics and fun! Register for Saturdays in June, Sundays in June, Saturdays in July or Saturdays in August!

2013 Fees:
AYC Member: \$65/session
Non-Member: \$100/session

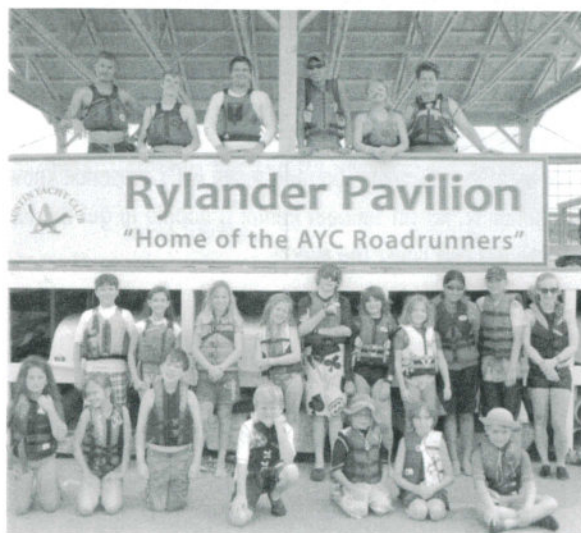


Junior Sailing Day Camp Ages: 8-16

Our Junior Sailing Campers learn and practice skills aboard our fleet of Optimists, Picos, Lasers, Sunfish, and Flying Juniors. Campers participate in a wide variety of activities including destination sails, introductory racing, windsurfing, and on-the-water sailing games.

2013 Dates:
Week One: June 10-14
Week Two: June 17-21
Week Three: June 24-28
Week Four: July 8-12
Week Five: July 15-19

2013 Fees:
AYC Members: \$395/week
Non-members: \$480/week



For more information and registration visit:

<http://www.austinyachtclub.net/training/summer>

Or call AYC Sailing Director, Kate Noble at (512) 266-1336

10 Commandments of Beer Can Racing

Failure to abide by these laws could exclude you from Beer Can Heaven!

I Thou shalt not take anything other than safety too seriously. If you can only remember one commandment, this is the one. Relax, have fun, and keep it light. Late to the start? So what. Over early? Big deal. No instructions? Improvise. Too windy? Quit. Not enough wind? Break out the beer. The point is to have fun, but stay safe. Like the ad says, "Safe boating is no accident."

II Thou shalt honor the racing rules if thou knowest them. The US Sailing 2013-2016 Racing Rules, unless specifically stated elsewhere in the Sailing Instructions is the current rules bible. Few sailors we know have actually studied it cover to cover: it's about as interesting as reading tax code or the phone book. For beer can racing, just remember some of the biggies (port tack boats shall avoid starboard ones; windward boats shall avoid leeward ones; and outside boats shall give room at the mark). Stay out of the way of bigger boats, pay your insurance premiums and keep a low profile unless you're sure you know what you're doing. Like most things, it boils down to common sense.

III Thou shalt not run out of beer. Beer (a.k.a., brewskis, chill pills, thought cylinders) is the beverage that lends its name to 'beer can' racing; obviously, you don't want to run out of the frothy nectar. Of course, you can drink whatever you want out there, but there's a reason these things aren't called milk bottle races, Coca-Cola can races, hot chocolate races or something else. Just why beer is so closely associated with this kind of racing escapes us at the moment, but it's a tradition we're happy to go along with.

IV Thou shalt not covet thy competitor's boat, sails, equipment, crew or PHRF rating. No excuses or whining; if you're lucky enough to have a sailboat, just go use it! You don't need the latest in zircon-encrusted widgetry or unobtainium sailcloth to have a great time out on the water with your friends. Even if your boat's a heaving pig, make modest goals and work toward improving on them from week to week. Or don't — it's only beer can racing.

V Thou shalt not amp out. No screaming, swearing, or overly aggressive tactics. Save that stuff for the office or, if you must, for Saturday's 'real' race. If you lose it in a Friday nighter, you're going to run out of crew — not to mention friends — in a big hurry. Downing a quick chill pill on the way to the starting line has been medically proven to have a calming influence on the nerves.

VI Thou shalt not protest thy neighbor. This is extremely tacky at this level of competition and should be avoided at all costs. Perhaps it's justifiable if one's boat is damaged and blame needs to be established, but on the whole, tossing a red flag is the height of bad taste in something as relatively inconsequential as a beer canner. Besides proving that you're unclear on the concept of beer can racing, it screws up everybody's evening, including yours. Don't do it — it's bad karma.

VII Thou shalt not mess up thy boat. Everybody knows some hardcore weekend warrior who ripped his sails up in a Friday night race and had to sit out the championship race on Saturday. The point is that it's not worth risking your boat and gear in such casual competition: like the song says, you got to know when to hold 'em, and know when to fold 'em. Avoid other boats at all costs, not to mention buoys and other hard objects. If you have the luxury of two sets of sails, use the old ones.

VIII Thou shalt always go to the yacht club afterwards. Part of the gestalt of beer can races is bellying up to the yacht club bar after the race. Etiquette demands that you congratulate the winners, as well as buy a round of drinks for your crew. Besides, the bar is a logical place to see old friends and make new ones. However, when meeting new sailors, avoid the gung-ho, overly serious types who rehash the evening in such gory detail that the post mortem (yawn) takes longer than the race. As much as we enjoy a quick romp around the cans, there's more to life.

IX Thou shalt bring thy spouse, kids, friends and whoever else wants to go. Twilight races are great forums for introducing new folks to sailing, such as your neighbors, out-of-town visitors, co-workers or maybe even the family dog. Always bring your significant other along, too — coed crews are happy crews. And don't just make the newcomers watch — give them a job on the boat. Get everyone involved.

X Thou shalt not worry; thou shalt be happy. Leave the cell phone in the car, bring the ghetto blaster. Lighten up, it's not the Big Boat Series. Have fun, and we'll see you out there!

Transcribed by the monks at Spinnaker Sailing of Redwood City, California, from the original texts by *Latitude 38* (submitted by Jim Johnstone)

SPRING SERIES PHOTOS

Photos by Bruce McDonald



J/24 Fleet Update

by John and Meiling Parker



J/24 Fleet Growth

Let's start out by first welcoming **Stuart Juengst** and "ComeBack" as the newest respective owner/boat pair to join the J/24

Fleet at AYC. Stu has

been a long-time crew member at AYC, most recently with the Superman team. Congratulations Stu, we are glad to have you with us.

Also, we want to express our gratitude to **Charles Singstad** and **Doug Weakly** for their time and effort to bring "ComeBack" to AYC from Rockport, TX. We appreciate it.

In addition, **Scott Brinkman** has taken a lead in helping **Tom Shelton** make improvements to Tom's J/24, Fergie.

Over the past two years Tom has graciously loaned his boat to the fleet and several teams have learned and practiced on Fergie. Tom is looking forward to sailing again and is now interested in upgrading Fergie's hardware to the new "racing" layout! The fleet will be helping Tom upgrade Fergie, including halyards, lines, and running lights, and we are looking forward to the first J/24 "Moonlight Cruise" of 2013! Stay tuned for more details!

J/24 Launching

Since the March Telltale, no additional J/24s have been launched or retrieved. At the time of this writing the elevation of Lake Travis is 630.24 feet (msl) so we need about one more foot of water before we can successfully launch via the metal ramp. Contact **John Parker** or **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** if you need to launch or retrieve your J/24.

Local Racing

Several J/24s participated in the Opening Day Regatta. Competing boats were helmed by: **Dr. David Gamble**, **David Broadway**, and **Roman Shor** for UTSC. It was an exciting sailing day with a solid breeze. In some cases, the breeze was sufficient to initiate a few broaches and cause some failures such as shredded spinnakers and exploding tweeker fairleads... as the saying goes: "If it doesn't broach you it will make you stronger."

With the shift to Windward/Leeward racing, we have seen an increase to six wet-slipped J/24s participating in the Spring Series Races, while the dry-slipped J/24s continue waiting for rain. The participating boats include **Pat Hitchins/Mark Hulings** on Mothership Connection, UTSC's Betty with newcomer **Paul Linden** and **Roman Shor**, **Vicente Saborio**, **Dave Broadway**, **Stephen Burke** on Out of Control, and **John Parker**. Of the three races scored, **Pat Hitchins** is clearly in the lead with **Vicente Saborio**

close behind in second place. The J/24 fleet showed its die-hard sailing enthusiasm racing Spring Series #2 in 20+ mph and very gusty winds. When the fleet got out to the race course, Race Committee immediately went into sequence for start number 4, as the J/24 fleet was the only fleet out to play. Label it crazy, but nothing broke and everyone had a great time!

Again, our thanks go out to **Stephen Burke**, **Joe Mancuso**, **Tom Shelton**, and **Tommy Pullen** for allowing eager fleet members and crew to utilize their platforms while dry-sailed fleet boats remain out of the water.

Maintenance

Several members of the J/24 fleet continue to perform maintenance on the boats and trailers. Fleet members are donating time, funds, and materials to both maintaining and improving the current wet-slipped boats as well as preparation for the J/24 Circuit. A J/24 Maintenance day was held where **Scott Brinkman** has donated his resources and time to provide Fergie with new halyards; **Vicente Saborio** performed work on his deck and rudder.



John Parker Welding Fenders
Photo — Courtesy Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás

Also, **John Parker**, **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás**, and **Arriel Bustillos** completed the addition of the 2nd axle and pneumatic wheel assembly to bring the Free Spirit trailer back to fully functional.



Scott Brinkman on Fergie
Photo — Courtesy John Parker

UTSC J/24

The UTSC team has been performing maintenance on Betty. The latest improvement has been the cleaning of her hull by the students. Word is that she is now much more responsive. Betty remains in need of a jib and some turning blocks. If you have some spare J/24 parts and/or sails and would like to help, please contact **Roman Shor**.

Fleet Social Events

The combined J/24 — J/22 Fleet had its second social event following the March 17 Spring Series Race. Party-goers were treated to a St. Patrick's day themed event including decorations, party favors, a meal



St. Patrick's Day Party-Goers Photo — Courtesy Meiling Parker

continued from previous page



St. Patrick's Day Party-Goers Photo — Courtesy Meiling Parker

of colcannon, corned beef, beef stew, Irish potato pancakes, and other enjoyable dishes. Thanks goes out to **Rachel Loziuk**, **Cathy Parker**, **Meiling Parker**, and **Noelle Munoz** from the Free Spirit team for their contributions to make this event a success. There were well in excess of 35 people who attended the event. We registered at least two additional boats and crew to the J/24 — J/22 Fleet and are looking forward to additional participation. Following Summer Series #2 on Sunday, May 5, the next social event will be hosted by team Superman and will be appropriately themed Fajitas and 'Ritas on the "Cinco-de-Mayo".

Out of Town Events

April brings the beginning of the 2013 J/24 Texas Circuit season. The first stop is at Houston Yacht Club for the Elissa Regatta. Below is a list of the upcoming out-of-town events in the near-term:

Venue	Event	Dates
Houston Yacht Club	Elissa Regatta	April 6-7, 2013
Fort Worth Boat Club	Southwest Championship	April 27-28, 2013
Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club	Heritage Cup	May 11-12, 2013
Corpus Christi Yacht Club	Surfin' Safari	June 8-9, 2013

If you are interested in participating in one of these out-of-town regattas with the AYC J/24 Fleet, please contact **John Parker** or **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás**. For general information on the J/24 Texas Circuit, you may visit <http://www.j24texas.com> for additional details.

Ensign Fleet Update

by Jonathan Baker

Howdy Ensigneers!

The Spring Series is upon us. On the first day we had seven boats on the line for the first start and six for race two. The breeze was light and shifty which made for a challenging day. The new course puts all marks above the start finish line, which should allow for the fleets to stay a little closer together and make for interesting mark roundings. For the Ensigns it resulted in lots of close roundings with J/24s. The races on day one were a test of who could find the breeze and stay in it. The team on Prime Time #810 (**Elliott Bray & Doug Laws**) was able to keep finding significant puffs and getting out to large leads. J. Seagull #324 (**Jonathan Baker**) tried a couple times to catch up and almost did at the finish; there was just not enough course left to make up for an over-early start. Race two was more of the same — our fleet is aggressive and we had one boat called over-early. I overheard a member of the RC comment that the Ensigns had the best starts, everyone was up at the line and going for a good start at the time of the gun. J. Seagull #324 was able to punch out from the pack and found a nice lane up the left side to get around the mark and hold on down wind. There was a great run for 2nd between Prickly Pair #1414 (**Hawk family**), Prime-Time #810 and #578 (**Tom Groll**) all finishing within a boat length or two of one another.

Day two of the Spring Series was a little different, 25-30 mph sustained winds postponed the races till 2:30pm in order for the wind to lay and temperature to rise. Prime Time #810 and J. Seagull #324 were there poised to go out and match race, but after getting down to the dock, we realized it was still blowing hard and still very cold. No Ensigns competed on day two. New members **Dave & Ann Morley** did take **Danny Lien & I** out on their power boat to watch the few boats that did go race. Thank you Morley's for the boat ride. Two more dates for the Spring Series 4/14 & 4/21 with a social to follow the races on the 21st. Hope to see as many boats on the water as possible.

Another Baker is taking to Lake Travis soon at AYC. **Caroline Baker** (now 4) has been signed up for two PB&J sessions this summer. Caroline will be 3rd generation Baker to sail at AYC, let's hope she enjoys it as much as her **Grandfather Jim** and **Aunt Sarah** have. If anyone knows of any kids who may be interested, this is a great way to introduce them to sailing. More info on summer activities for juniors on AYC website.

Who is ready for Friday night sailing? By the time of this issue, Friday Beer Can races will have started. Come on out, enjoy the evening and get a burger afterwards. I bet you will find some diehard Ensign sailors out there each week. I heard **Tom Groll** was racing himself on Fridays in March and finished as high as 3rd!

Keep your eyes on the calendar lots of opportunities to get out on the water and enjoy the lake. Let's finish out the Spring Series with as many boats as possible. Summer Series begins April 28 and Turnback Canyon Regatta is May 25-26. See you at the lake!

Catalina 22 Fleet Update

by John Grzinich

I actually have some sailing activity to report and some really excellent sailing at that. In the "Opening Day Regatta" our fleet had four C22s out for the PHRF non-spin fleet which had a total of 12 boats racing. It was a pretty high wind gusty day, quite challenging for C22s, but **Johannes Brinkmann** handled the high wind perfectly to win first place, and Ted Owens, one of our fleet's best high wind sailors, finished 3rd.



Johannes Brinkmann and crew, first place, Opening Day Regatta, non-spin fleet



Ted Owens gets a third place prize in the Opening Day Regatta

Meri and Steve Shepardson, and myself had to drop out due to mechanical problems. Those high wind days are when you will find a weak part on the boat. But, you have to get out and sail in those conditions if you ever expect to learn how to set up the boat for high wind, and test the rigging.

Our fabulous C22 band "The Shoal Brothers" rocked out once again for one of our C22 sailors as **David Zbasnik** celebrated a

major milestone birthday party. **Wade Bingaman** on vocals and guitar, **Dane Ohe** on lead guitar, and **Joe Roddy** on drums, all excellent C22 racers did a superb job entertaining everyone with classic rock all night long. Plenty of dancing was done by all.

We kicked off the Spring Series with three boats on the starting line for the 1st day of races. C22s will be running this series non-spin. **Wade Bingaman, myself, and Brett Wilson** raced. We like the new race course format since this is the format used at all the regattas we travel to, although when large fleets are racing a gate will be used for the leeward mark, and an offset mark is added to the windward rounding. In the first race's light wind conditions it did create a traffic jam at the leeward mark resulting in some bumping between boats in different fleets. **Wade Bingaman** took 1st in the first race, and I came in 2nd after doing a 720 due to my whisker pole hitting an Ensign while working my way into to leeward mark. Wade also won the 2nd race.



Dave Zbasnik rocks to the music of the Shoal Brothers.

The temporary boat ramp is working for us C22 sailors, but certain procedures are needed to be successful as the ramp is rather flat. Using a trailer extension is vital since the ramp has a fairly flat angle at the current 630 water level. Even with an extension, it is still rear wheels in the water to get the boat on or off the trailer. Since there is no rigging dock, when launching you really need someone in the boat, ready to start the engine to power the boat off the trailer and drive to the nearest dock. If you have the fixed rudder instead of the kick-up, you need to leave it off when launching or hauling out as it will drag on the ramp. When hauling out, drive the boat up onto your submerged trailer. Again, because of the flatness of the ramp, you need good speed to try to get the boat as far onto the trailer as possible, and then use your winch to pull it all the way on. Someone will have to get wet feet for this task. The final trick is to NOT stop with your driving wheels on the gravel after the metal ramp section, keep going! Otherwise, you'll spin your tires in the gravel trying to get restarted. Congratulations to **Cheryl and Steve Pervier** for launching their C22 after a long hiatus and restoration by Steve.

Cheers!

Keel Fleet Update

by Jim Johnstone

I recently read an article in Sports Car Magazine that had some good advice for new amateur auto racers which I have paraphrased here so it could apply to racing sailboats:

1. You will get beat. You will probably get beat frequently when you are new to the sport, especially if those you are competing against have been doing it for years.
2. Ask the people who beat you for advice. Everyone loves to talk about what a great race they sailed after the race.
3. Don't believe everything you hear. Some of that information will be useful, some not so much, and some of it will be wrong. You can sort it out as you sail more races and talk to more people.
4. Respect the rules. Even if they do not make sense. Understand them

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first, get them changed later after you have lived with them for a while and won some races. Rules are tweaked every four years. Join US sailing and make your voice heard.

5. Don't be cheap about safety. Nothing ruins your day more than losing your boat unless it is losing your crew. Have the right safety gear on board like a horn, life preservers, fire extinguishers, and radio. Explain to your crew what their jobs are in case of an emergency such as crew overboard. A few minutes of your time could save someone's life.
6. Improve the skipper before you improve the boat. We all like to blame the boat or sails or crew when we are not fast but money and time spent on improving your sailing skills and tactics will result in faster improvement than if it is spent on gear and sails.
7. Be patient. It takes time to develop your skills. The best way to do that is to sail as much as you can as a skipper and as a crew. There is no substitute for time spent on the water sailing a boat. Having said that, plan to sail in the Friday night Beer Can races starting in April. They are a wonderful way to work on your sailing skills and enjoy a burger and brew after the race with your fellow sailors.
8. Let someone else do the work. If you have not bought a boat yet, try to find one that was successfully raced. It will have the necessary gear, fresher sails, and a clean bottom. If you already have a boat look at other boats like yours to see what other owners have done. Ask them and their crew if they like it and why.
9. This will cost more than you think. Sailing is close to photography in the amount of money you can spend on very simple pieces of paraphernalia. Even rope is expensive. Things are always breaking and wearing out. The good news is that wind is free.
10. Have fun. Winning is a challenge and extremely exhilarating when it happens but you can have fun even if you are not winning. Having fun is what keeps you and your crew coming back for more time on the water.

Alligator Eyes

by Bill Casnovsky, Captain, Non-Spin Fleet

You could see their eyes reflecting back at us as we swept our cone of white light along the sandy bank across the bayou. Whew, we are not going swimming, tonight! We had enjoyed 28 knot gusts crossing East Galveston Bay earlier in the day. Helping hands caught our lines as we glided into a comfortable slip in Double Bayou. It was time for the St. Patrick's Day Cruise and Fish Fry gala all staged on a weathered deck accented with Irish green trimmings.

Marker 17 Restaurant was doing all the cooking freeing up our First Mates (wives & special partners) from a night in the galley. Over 100 strong kicked back with good food and drink relaxing in the fading glow of the setting sun. No worries about a slipping anchor, tonight.

We celebrated until dark and then retreated back to our cockpit for more

beer, nautical stories and laughter. Several neighboring skippers were stowing their outboards and hoisting up their dinghies for the morning cruise back to civilization. As I watched, I secretly congratulated myself on my decision not to bring my inflatable this trip.

Hanging out in the cockpit a cloud of mosquitoes decided to suddenly hit us from all sides. Quickly, we scrambled below decks to thwart the attack. Blessed is the man who invented mosquito screens. As the night progressed, the crew settled in reading their favorite passages until the Sand Man arrived.

09:00 Sunday morning greeted us with bright sun and a building breeze. We wandered about our dock with hot cups of coffee in hand anticipating a spirited sail back to the homeland (Kemah). All the neighboring boats were abandoned with 100-plus sailors off fetching breakfast.

Anxious to depart early, I gave a command to cast off while goosing the engine in reverse gear. A cheer erupted as we slid backwards, away from the pilings, in the low tide. Relief came over me as I concluded that my six-foot keel would not find the bottom, today. Suddenly, the vessel came to an abrupt halt. I was stuck hard on a hidden sand bar in the middle of the bayou! How could this happen? Ideas were shouted rapidly from the crew: "Jump in with an anchor — no, too many gators! Launch the dinghy — no, I did not bring it! Shut the engine down — yes, you are sucking in sand!" Finally, **Norma** suggested the best idea, "Send a crew on a passing boat to get help!" As the tide came up and the wind built to 15 knots, our bottom slowly twisted and slid towards other moored boats. Meanwhile, Norma landed on shore and found other skippers finishing their breakfast. No one was motivated to help until she shouted: "Beau Navire is sliding down on your boats!" Panicked skippers came streaming down the hill shouting and scrambling to protect their hulls with make shift fenders.

Soon we spotted a crew of sailors standing in a ribbed dinghy slowly making an approach. Upon arrival, the men methodically took soundings to find the deepest path off the sand bar. A spirited push, a shove, a twist and fully throttled engine, slowly gained us our freedom. Whew! We escaped with no damage short of a bruised ego. All the way back to Kemah, the skipper contemplated his mistakes and what he had learned from the experience.



Our Crew: L to R, Danny Lien, Norma Lien, Linda Casnovsky, Hector Luhan and Skipper Bill

Ides of March Regatta Report

by Scott Young

AYC's Cat Sailors were well represented at the recent Ides of March Regatta at Lake Somerville the weekend of March 23 and 24. The Formula 18 division had five C-2s entered and **Jim Casto** competed in the Portsmouth division.

Saturday was overcast, chilly and had very light patchy wind. The race committee was able to run three reasonable races. At the end of three races, AYC's **Scott Young** and **John Morran** were tied with **John Tomko** for first with a 4-1-1 as compared to Tomko's 1-2-3.



A major cold front blew in on Saturday night and Sunday morning dawned with much colder temperatures and winds gusting over 40 mph. The winds were so strong in fact that **Mike Beuerlein's** boat was blown off its trailer and unfortunately resulted in a broken mast. The race committee wisely elected to cancel racing for the day resulting in the **Young/Morran** team narrowly edging **John Tomko** for first place on a tiebreaker.



John and I learned quite a bit about sailing the catamaran in light winds at this event. It was very evident that unless there was enough wind to naturally raise the windward hull out of the water, it was better to put the crew's weight forward on the windward hull and almost attempt to heel the cat to windward while going upwind. The most important thing was to keep the sterns from dragging by keeping the weight forward.

We also found that it was helpful to ease the shrouds and diamonds to create more power and to allow for a bit of twist in the upper part of the main sail by not over-sheeting.

From the Desk of the GM

by Steve Hawks

Spring is here and with it comes blooming redbuds, blue bonnets, renewed hope for rain and the uncontrollable urge to work on your boat. While I can't do much about the blooming flowers or rain, I can remind those who plan to use the work area to please reserve your work pad before you park your boat or trailer in the work area.

Already this spring we have had some conflicts arise due to occupying a work area and not signing in, fortunately all were amicably worked out. Please remember that work space is limited and reservations help to keep things on track.

Speaking of on track, the junior programs are definitely picking up speed. In fact some of our junior student members now have their own boats

and will be bringing them out to the club for storage in the dry sail area designated for our junior student members.

If you have a boat or trailer in this area that is not part of the Junior program please move it to a more appropriate area. If you need help, contact me at the AYC office and together we will come up with a plan to move and safely store your equipment.

In closing, if you are a new(er) member and are not receiving the e-newsletter provided by **Vic Manning** please let me know so we can get you on the distribution list. This is a great tool to help you successfully achieve your probationary requirements while staying informed of upcoming club activity/events

AYC SCUTTLEBUTT

by Bill Records

Series Race Participation

Many of those participating in the series races have been trying to get a larger turnout. It is understandable why deep keeled, dry sailed boats are not racing. However, there are a lot of well equipped boats in slips presently not racing. An idea that has been around for a long time might be the solution for low turnout fleets. If you win a trophy in a series, you hop on another boat and help them race and improve. As we all know if the pecking order stays the same, the bottom of the fleet goes away. On the other hand, maybe we have too many keel boat races. There are a lot of centerboard boats that are easy to launch, so maybe we ought to replace one of the Summer keel series with a centerboard series.

PR Person Wanted

The future health of the club depends partly on our communication and outreach to the Austin community. That effort involves persuading the local media to cover our events. Last year I made attempts by phone and email to inform the Statesman about our Roadrunner Regatta, the second largest youth regatta in Texas. We got no coverage! If there are any members with experience in writing press releases, please contact our Sailing Director, **Kate Noble**.



A good start in FJs



Keel Boat Clinic graduates

Scott Young Start Clinic

AYC Sail Training April 20. **Scott Young** will be teaching an on the water start clinic using the club's FJs, Sunfishes, and Lasers. If you enjoyed the FJ challenge, but didn't win, you need this class. Scott is an excellent teacher and if you don't take this class, your competitors will.



Judge Wahlberg

Former commodore **David Wahlberg** has entered politics and was elected Travis County Judge this fall. I don't think that he will fix your traffic tickets, but if you see him, congratulate him.

Beer can racing, baby! The fun is back!

Check your start time by handicap rating on the AYC bulletin board.

Make sure to check your lights!

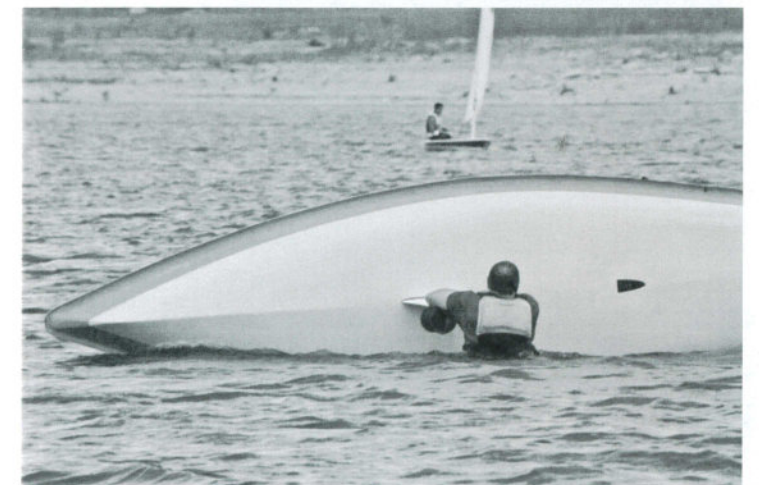
6:30 first start for month of April and October

7:30 first start for May-September

Burgers to follow!

EASTER LASER REGATTA

Photos by Bruce McDonald



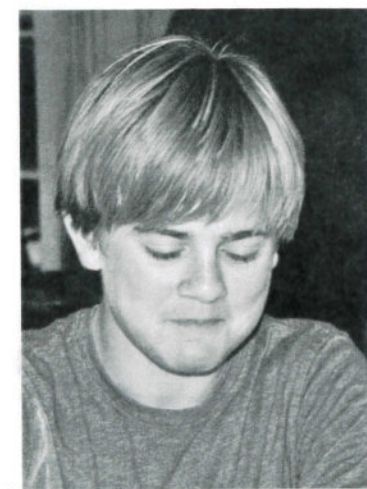
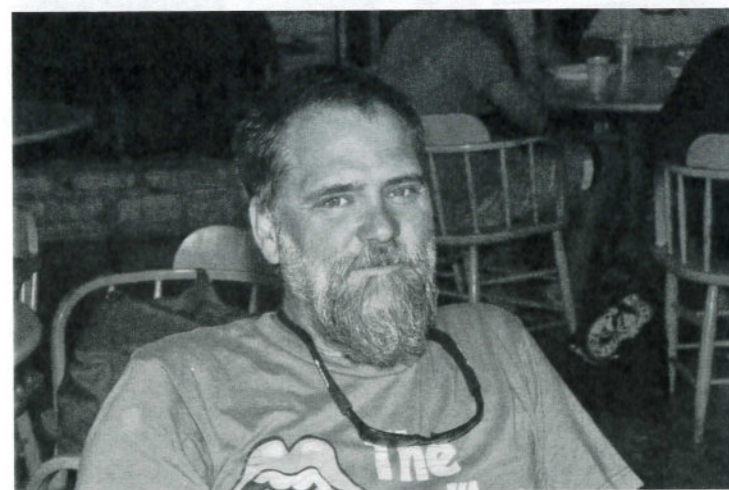
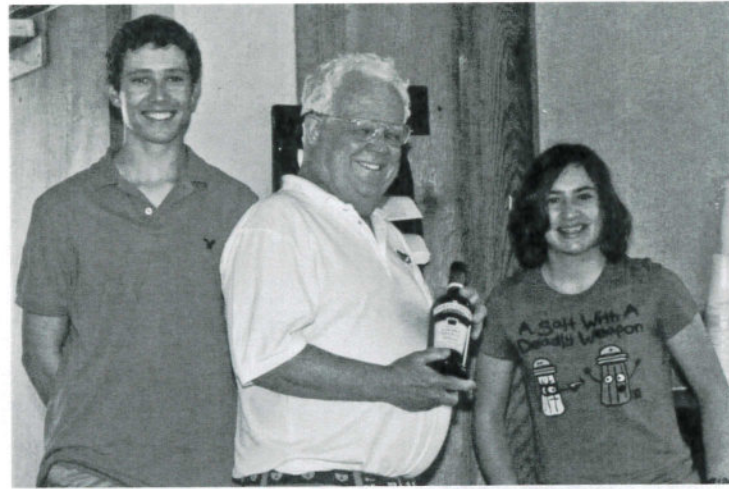
THANKS TO FRED SCHROTH AND TEAM FOR ANOTHER GREAT EASTER LASER REGATTA!

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Past Commodore	Johannes Brinkmann
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Race Commander	Barry Bowden
Buildings & Grounds Cdr.	John Saunders
Harbor Commander	Jon Nash
Sail Training Commander	Jenny Loehlin

AYC STAFF

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Head Caretaker	Tom Cunningham
Sailing Director	Kate Noble
Bookkeeper	Jackie Wheelless

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Clubhouse: 512-266-1897

E-MAIL AND WEBSITE

www.austinyachtclub.net
office@austinyachtclub.net

NEWSLETTER

Susie McDonald, Editor
Email submissions by 1st of month to:
ghowiellc@aol.com

AYC BUSINESS HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 9:00A - 5:00P
Sunday 1:00P - 5:00P

Closed Mondays
Closed Club Holidays:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

buildings_grounds@austinyachtclub.net
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secretary@austinyachtclub.net
treasurer@austinyachtclub.net
harbor_commander@austinyachtclub.net

AYC 2013 RACE CALENDAR

April 6-7	TSA Roadrunner Regatta
April 14	Spring Series Race #3 RC: PHRF B 1:30 start
April 21	Spring Series Race #4 End of Series RC: PHRF Non Spin 1:30 start
April 28	Summer Series Race #1 Skipper's Meeting at Noon, RC: J/24 1:30 start
Every Wed in May	Sunfish/Laser Races 6:00p
May 5	Summer Series Race #2 RC: J22 1:30 start
May 18	SC21 Intergalactics
May 19	Summer Series Race #3 RC: Multihull 1:30 start
May 25-26	Turnback Canyon Regatta

AYC 2013 NON-RACING EVENTS

Every Wed in Apr	Motorboat Training w/Vic Manning 6:00-8:00p
April 13	Race Management Seminar w/Brad Davis 9:00a-1:00p
April 20	Scott Young Start Clinic 1:00-5:00p Lake
April 21	Spring Series End of Series Banquet 5:00p Clubhouse
April 25	AYC Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p Clubhouse
April 27-28	US Sailing Small Boat Level 1 Instructor Course Clubhouse/Lake
May 4-5	(2 weekends)
May 4	Basic Keel Boat Clinic 1:00-5:00p Clubhouse/Lake
May 11	Spring Women's Clinic 9:00a-8:00p Clubhouse/Lake
May 23	AYC Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p Clubhouse

SAILORS TAKE CARE! (Submitted by John Saunders)

Rare lightning bolt strikes Lake Travis

Sunday, 10 Mar 2013 AUSTIN (KXAN) - A lightning bolt on Lake Travis early Sunday morning proves lightning does not always strike the tallest object in the area...

For the complete story, go to - <http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/local/austin/rare-lightning-bolt-strikes-lake-travis>



A ReportIt photo by KXAN viewer Sherrie MacAllister shows the lightning strike directly on the lake surface, despite the much higher terrain of Hippie Hollow, and homes at even higher elevations, visible on the right side of the photograph.

TURNBACK CANYON REGATTA

May 25-26, 2013



Turnback Canyon Regatta Part Deux

Seldom in life do you get a second chance when you make a mistake. If you did not attend last year's Turnback Regatta, that was your mistake. But you are getting a second chance. **GAME ON.**

It will be the wildly popular beach party, music festival format again. The musical acts have all been lined up. The groups, which include several new acts, will vary from acoustic, to island music, to rock & roll. The food promises to be outstanding again. And I almost forgot about the racing - it will be held in the main basin. All the regatta is missing is you.

I'm sure everyone who partied at the regatta last year will be back again - and there were a lot of parties. So remember to sign up early. No excuse to miss it this time. See all of you Memorial Day weekend! - Wade Bingaman

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