

# AUSTIN YACHT CLUB TELLTALE

April 2016



## Lake is FULL. Come Out and Sail!

Two Wins! Ryan Harden  
Rocks March Madness Regatta



Photo Bill Records

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Events, Camps, Clinics and More!

### SAVE THE DATE

Apr 16 Learn to Sail Clinic  
Apr 16-17 ASA 101  
Basic Keelboat Certification  
Apr 17 Spring #4 End of Series  
Apr 17 Chaparral de Mar Regatta  
Apr 22 Beer Can Races Start  
Apr 23-24 J70 Circuit Stop  
Apr 23-24 SEISA Team Racing

Apr 23-24, April 30 - May 1  
US Sailing Level 1 Course  
Apr 27 Sunfish/Laser Series Starts  
Apr 30 Work Day  
Apr 30-May 1 McCarthy Cup  
May 1 Summer Series #1  
May 7 Women's Sailing Clinic  
May 15 Summer Series #2

May 13-15 J22 Circuit Stop  
May 14-15 Boy Scout Campout  
May 21-22 ASA 101  
Basic Keelboat Certification  
May 22 Summer Series #3  
May 28-29 Turnback Canyon Regatta  
Jun 17 Moonburn Series #1  
Oct 1 AYC Fleet Challenge



**Thanks, Fred!** 

## From The Commodore

by Molly Lewis



As I sit down to write this month's article, I can't help but reflect on events of the last couple weeks at AYC.

We have many great things to celebrate:

**Fred Schroth** hosted another successful and fun-by-all-accounts Easter Laser Regatta;

**Kate and Coleman** kicked off the next four-week FJ Training Series with a full and enthusiastic first class;

The **Roadrunners** had an incredible turnout at the Lake Canyon YC Spring Fling Regatta and the Roadrunner Regatta, held at AYC on April 9-10;

The **Sea Scouts** enjoyed a beautiful weekend for their 2nd annual campout, workday, and sail-to-Sometimes-Island;

We had a crowd of 50 or 60 gathered in the clubhouse to listen to a fantastic presentation by **David and Cindy Balfour** about their cruising adventures on their custom catamaran "Full Circle", including a preview of their plans for this next cruising season to work with the Sea Mercy organization providing recovery support to the people of Fiji following the devastation of Cyclone Winston;

We continue to watch in awe as **Linda McDavitt** races around the world on a Clipper 70 (and feel a twinge of jealousy that **Renee Ruais** and **Lynna Holland** will be meeting her in Seattle and taking part in a "crew experience" day aboard one of the raceboats).

And that's just some of what's going on. Everywhere you look, AYC members are doing amazing things and fully enjoying a sport we all love.

But juxtaposed on these happy events is the sadness we all feel upon learning of the loss of AYC member **Tony Slowick, Jr.** I did not know Tony very well personally, but it didn't take more than about five minutes in the same room with him to know a few things about him – he lived his life with vitality, he loved sailing, he was incredibly proud of his son, and was devoted to doing everything he could to support T3's own love of sailboat racing. He will be missed by his friends at AYC, and we are less without him.

Whether you knew **Tony** or didn't know him, I encourage you to honor his memory – and the memories of all our competitors, teammates, friends who sail with us no longer – by sailing. Sail with intensity and passion for the sport, sail with the joy of being with friends and the feeling of the wind on your face, sail with gratitude that you have the time, the resources, the health to be where you are at this moment in time. Sail with the knowledge that this sail will be tomorrow's memory. Make it a great one.

## Vice Commodore Report

by Wade Bingaman



The Regatta Chair, **Diane Covert**, is very busy getting ready for the Turnback Canyon Regatta. You should think about getting ready too. This regatta is a two-day, 20-mile-a-day race with an overnight stay. Obviously it's not a short series race that you can decide to do an hour beforehand. So if you haven't already, start thinking about it.

The commitment level for your crew is higher. Start asking your sailing buddies now. You might have to go through a few more names than usual, and even the ones who say "yes" might take longer to make up their minds.

Give the condition of your boat some serious thought. Repair or replace anything that you might have been limping along on in the past. Weak equipment is much more likely to – which it will be in this regatta. Make sure your auxiliary power is working properly and have plenty of fuel.

*continued next page*



**SAVE THE DATE**

## AYC FLEET CHALLENGE

The **AYC Fund** is pleased to announce the  
**6th ANNUAL AYC FLEET CHALLENGE**  
Saturday, October 1, 2016

This year's **Fleet Challenge** will be held in conjunction with the **AYC Luau**, so plan to stay after the racing for a fun and festive evening!

**Hawaiian racing attire is encouraged!**

The best-dressed team will earn a throw-out.

Contact your fleet captain and start organizing your team.

The **AYC Fleet Challenge** is the annual fundraiser for the **AYC Fund** and supports numerous sail training, junior development and facility support initiatives for sailing in Central Texas.

The winds can be fickle for Turnback, and you don't want to miss the party at Lago Vista because the winds died and your motor didn't work.

Think about removing unneeded stuff from your boat. I know I have about twenty swim floats that will not be making the trip. It's likely to be warm so you'll need the extra room for your ice chests with lots of cool drinks for your crew. Remember you will be provided free ice on Sunday morning for your return journey. Also, breakfasts will be provided both mornings, but you will need to take some type of food to munch on while you are sailing. Don't forget your sleeping gear – sleeping bags, etc., and a tent if you choose not to sleep on your boat. But not to worry, if you don't have room for this gear, the Club is providing a large truck to haul it all up there. Your gear will be waiting for you when you get to Lago Vista on Saturday. Also, hats, lots of sunscreen, bug repellent and a good map of the lake are musts.

This is going to be a great regatta, but you have to get ready. My advice is to start now.

## Building and Grounds Report

by Chris Thompson



It has been a busy month around the Club, getting some projects brought to completion while planning for the next ones. Mark your calendars for another volunteer work day on Saturday April 30. Projects to be determined.

The Spring Work Day went very well. **Mason Wheelless** provided a delicious lunch for the work party.

### Projects Completed

Workday projects completed on 2/27:

- Outside tables were re-stained.
- Brush cleared from trailer parking, other areas.
- Parking areas painted. New HC/walks defined.
- Bathroom refinishing started.
- Planting decoratives and herb garden by bell.
- One side of point sign repaired (and then wiped out by storms); new light fixtures installed.
- BBQ grills and outdoor furniture painted.

Some of the other projects we have been busy on are:

- RV parking – the first outlet is installed on middle screened cabin (#2); we will need to upgrade wiring and breakers to install a second outlet on cabin #1.
- Fans and lighting sensors have been installed in clubhouse restrooms. The light and fan will shut off after five minutes. The new exterior lighting is working well in North parking handicap area.
- The door closer on clubhouse door was replaced and is working properly (Thanks **Paul Wheelless**.)



Good bye, Old Pal

- The electric panel upgrade in the work area was complete with help of Seay Electric. A Uni-strut frame was used to replace the existing wooden one. We demo'd all the abandoned wiring and circuits, balanced and re-labeled circuits, replaced the service panel, all outlets, and breakers. All service outlets are 20 amp.
- The **Sea Scouts** have painted the picnic tables under the clubhouse. They look great. Plus they did a bunch of leaf raking and bagging around the lower parking area. Thanks **Ship 681** and everyone who helped.



Sea Scouts at work

### Projects in Planning

- Estimates for the bath house remodel are proceeding. Contractors have pics and details, estimates pending site visit. Recommendation is to sandblast walls before refinishing.
- Improving the lighting in the parking areas with LEDs. We have reserved some recycled metal light poles from Austin Energy. New members **Diane Covert** and **Mark Zion**, who are both former AE employees, have helped with getting me to the right contacts.
- Paint sail training pavilion – paint is very well worn. This will be an upcoming volunteer project.

Thanks to all who have helped out and offered advice and insight. Knowing the history of what and why some things are the way they are is invaluable to making efficient upgrades and improvements.

## Race Commander Report

by Ed Taylor



Some great Springtime racing with strong winds until last Sunday when the weatherman would not cooperate before the Multihull class got off to a shortened finish.

One of the Spring Series races was held in the "Basin" off Windy Point and Hippy Hollow, and another held close to the shores of Starnes Island.

The rising lake levels have allowed for different racing courses. The End of Spring Series will be held April 17. B Fleet will have Race Committee duty.

A review of the past few races is being conducted to determine why the faster Sport boats and smaller One-Design boats all meet at the Windward pin at the same time. This has caused some concern due to the closing speeds and number of boats during mark roundings. The only reasonable fix is a change in the Order of Starts which will be implemented for the Summer Series.

The Permanent Race Committee members have been assigned to their individual Series responsibilities so look for some new faces helping out the fleets for their Race Committee duties.

I still have some Frost Bite Series awards that have not been picked up. Please see me so that you may receive your well-earned trophy!

See you on the water!

## Sail Training Report

by Bill Records



I open this report with the sad news that **Kate Noble**, AYC Sailing Director, will be leaving us at the end of May. Kate joined us five and a half years ago as our second Junior Coach, following **Barrett Fontenot**. She quickly moved up to Sailing Director and helped develop the junior program into the envy of the state. As the program grew, it evolved and there were growing pains and new

problems to solve. Kate met every problem and challenge head-on and became an exceptional leader. I never dreamed that we would be where we are now in such a short period. We couldn't have done it without her and she will be missed. A bon voyage and appreciation party is being planned for Kate so we can properly thank her.

On April 2 our **Sea Scouts** had a work party at the Club. They performed some needed cleanup and painted the picnic tables under the clubhouse. They did a super job and we are so lucky to have them at AYC. If you see **Chris Shuttger**, Sea Scout Leader, or any of the scouts at the Club, be sure to thank them.

Registration for junior camp and PB&J is up and running and ahead of last year's pace. We are working on improving the experience for the

campers. Remember that members' kids get a discount so sign up early.

The Speaker Series began with an amazing slide show and talk by **David and Cindy Balfour** about their experiences building a 49-foot catamaran and sailing half way around the world. Everyone who attended enjoyed it. Some of us are thinking of joining **Cindy and Dave!** The Keel Fleet will be hosting our next speaker, **Jim Merritt**. Jim will be talking about boat building on Friday night before Turnback. You won't want to miss this one.

Many of you have received the terrible news of **Tony Slowik's** passing in March. Tony was a tireless supporter of the Roadrunner Fleet, spending every spare minute helping out, and not just with his own son. He was a great husband and father, and our hearts reach out to **Gael and Little Tony**. At times like this we realize that our Club is really a family.

## In Memoriam



**Anthony (Tony) Slowik, Jr.**, age 48, died peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at his home in Austin, Texas. He was born at Fort Polk, Louisiana to Dr. Anthony J. Slowik, Sr. and Dr. Carol A. Houston (Slowik). He was raised in Corpus Christi where he loved the beach and sailing as a young boy. He attended Windsor Park Athena and Baker Athena and graduated from W.B. Ray High School and Texas A&M CC. Tony went on to work

for Club Med as athletic director, co-business owner of Surfside Grill North Beach, Ballyhoo Sports Bar and Club 511 downtown Corpus Christi. In the Virgin Islands, he owned Da Fish Mon distributorship of fish. Tony returned to Austin to the real estate business where he quickly became a top producer.

Tony was passionate about sailing with his father and brother, winning many trophies, local and state. He passed on his sailing skills to T3, his son, who also earned many trophies, state, national and international representing the Team USA in Holland and Spain. Tony will always be remembered for his role in the movie, Legend of Billie Jean, his contagious laughter, sense of adventure, his eternal optimism and enthusiasm, larger than life personality and, above all, his devotion to his 12 year old son, T3.

He is preceded in death by his father, Dr. Anthony J. Slowik, Sr. and grandmother, Bettye Houston Wessels. He is survived by his mother Dr. Carol A. Houston, wife Gael J. Slowik, son Anthony J. Slowik III, stepson Max Sheppard, brother Trevor M. Slowik, numerous Slowik aunts, uncles, and cousins from the East Coast and Canada, brother-in-law Daniel N. Casey, mother-in-law Marianne Berridge, and his beloved dog, Charlie.

Memorial donations may be made to The AYC Roadrunner Fleet.



Photo Bill Records

## Notes from Your GM

by Jackie Wheelless



As you are aware, Lake Travis is FULL. Any future large rain event could result in flooding of the dry storage area. With this in mind, the Harbor Committee did a review of the dry storage area slips. The results revealed astonishing information. There are many trailers that are not identified as required by the Austin Yacht Club Membership Handbook, #26 under Harbor Rules. Also, there are a large

number of trailers that have flat tires, locked hitches and some that don't even have wheels. Letters have been sent to members who need to take steps to get their trailers in compliance. PLEASE help us get the dry storage area in a manageable state!!

In case of flooding – Trailers will not be moved and they will not be allowed to take up necessary space on the AYC grounds.

Standing water was observed in many of the boats in the dry storage area. Due to the recent rains and threat of West Nile virus, everyone is urged to eliminate all standing water to prevent mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes that spread West Nile virus breed in stagnant water. It's suggested that everyone regularly drain standing water.

Thank you to **Karen Bogisch and Bob Goldsmith** for taking a Spectator Boat out for the J24 March Madness Regatta. It was a cool, windy Sunday morning with lots of action!

**Carolyn Howard** has been volunteering in the office for the past few weeks ... she's moved files, created files, counted inventory, mailed out the new member cards and has offered to come back whenever needed!

**THANK YOU, CAROLYN!!!**

**DID YOU KNOW** . . . . . According to Flood Plan documents, the AYC Point will be underwater at 685 ft. (the current level is 681.08).

Heads up! The Texas Parks and Wildlife game wardens are going through Lake Travis marinas looking for moored boats that do not have current registration stickers. They are then mailing a citation to the boat owners. This past weekend they made lists of boats with expired registration stickers at Lakeway Marina, Crosswater Yacht Club and VIP Marina. The officers plan to go through every marina on Lake Travis. If the sticker is not on your boat, TPW will issue a "Failure to Display" citation.

Please review <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/PW/htm/PW.31.htm>

### PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE

#### TITLE 4. WATER SAFETY

#### CHAPTER 31. WATER SAFETY

#### SUBCHAPTER B. IDENTIFICATION OF VESSELS; REQUIRED NUMBERING

Sec. 31.021. REQUIRED NUMBERING. (a) Each vessel on the water of this state shall be numbered in accordance with the provisions of this chapter unless specifically exempted. The numbering system shall be in accord with the Federal Boating Act of 1958 and subsequent federal legislation.

**(b) No person may operate or give permission for the operation of any vessel or may dock, moor, or store a vessel owned by the person on the water of this state unless:**

- (1) the vessel is numbered as required by this chapter;
- (2) the certificate of number awarded to the vessel is in full force and effect; and
- (3) the identifying number set forth in the certificate is properly displayed on the vessel as required by this chapter.

## WELCOME APRIL NEW MEMBERS



Debbie Adams (Husband David Butler) Senior Probationary



Victor Gotay (Wife Laura Gotay) Senior Probationary



Michael Murray Student



Julie Chicoine Senior Probationary



Phillip Connor Senior Probationary



Karen Makransky Associate Probationary

## Social Committee Report

by Susy Ortega



Opening Day 2016 proved to be an exciting event complete with good friends, good food and great sailing! For the Social Committee this demonstrated to be yet another year of success with the help of our wonderful volunteers. We would like to extend a warm thank you to all of our volunteers who continue to give of their time and talents to support the Social committee in all of its endeavors.



Photo Deborah Mathison

The Social Committee would like to especially thank **Jackie and Tom** for all of their behind the scenes work that does not go unnoticed. Among the list of dedicated volunteers we thank **Diane Covert, Eric and Jami Nordquist, Robin Drummond, Carol Frick, Chris Ehlers, Jane Lanshe, Molly Lewis, Carolyn Wilsford, Vic and Pat Manning** for helping organize, set up, prepare and clean up. We would also like to thank **Deborah Mathison and Cheryl Pervier** for adding their photography skills to the event. **John and Claudia Bartlett** for providing their renowned Bloody Marys.

Thank you! We look forward to another great sailing season!

## Sailing Director Report

by Kate Noble



It is with a heavy heart that I announce that I will be leaving my position as AYC Sailing Director at the end of May. I will be returning to the East Coast this summer and joining the team at Eastport Yacht Club in Annapolis, Maryland. I will miss AYC but am looking forward to being closer to family and friends and starting a new chapter.

I am working closely with **General Manager Jackie Wheelless, Sail Training Commander Bill Records, and the rest of the Board of Directors** to navigate this transition and the future of Sail Training at AYC.

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of this special Club for the past five years. I've greatly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities I've had to strengthen our training programs at AYC and build a new Junior Sailing Program. I've learned so much, both on and off the water, that I will take with me throughout my career.

Thank you for the guidance, support, wisdom, and encouragement you all have provided me with along the way.

I want to give a special thank you to my Roadrunners for challenging and inspiring me. It has been a privilege to watch you grow and develop into the confident, talented young people you are. Keep sailing fast and pushing to be the best you can be both on and off the water. I am in awe of each and every one of you and can't wait to see where your love of sailing takes you!

AYC will always hold a very special place in my heart and I hope to keep in touch. You can email me anytime at [noblekate1@gmail.com](mailto:noblekate1@gmail.com) and be sure to come say hello next time you're in Annapolis!

The good news is, I'm not gone quite yet and there's still plenty on the horizon for Sail Training!

### Adult Sail Training

April 1 was the first day of the April beginner level FJ Training Series. We're excited to have another full class of 12 students for the series! The series includes four weekly lessons from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday evenings and covers the basics of dinghy sailing. The Series is coached by **Coach Coleman Terrell and myself**. We'll be offering another FJ Training Series in May on Fridays 6:00-8:00 pm. Registration is now open on the AYC website!

On April 16, we will be holding a Learn to Sail Clinic aboard keelboats. Space is still available so sign on up! Many thanks to **Clinic Chair John Grzinich and Sail Training Commander Bill Records** for taking the lead on this one!

Our Spring Women's Clinic is coming up on May 7. I am working closely with **clinic chair Carolyn Wilsford** to make this one our biggest and best Women's Clinic yet! The clinic is filling up fast so be sure to register early! We are also searching for more volunteers. If you're a female sailor and interested in crewing or skippering, or a member who has a boat we could use, or if you'd like to help with food, please contact me at [kate@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:kate@austinyachtclub.net) or (512) 266-1336.

### Junior Sailing Program

Our Spring Season of the Junior Sailing Program continues! On April 2, **Scott Young** gave a special presentation to our Opti II/III sailors before their Saturday practice. Many thanks to Scott for sharing his local knowledge and wisdom on starts and tactics with our juniors. It's always a treat to listen to Scott speak!

### Summer Programs

Summer preparations are underway and camps are starting to fill up. We look forward to offering six weeks of Junior Sailing Camp and four sessions of our PB&J Summer Sailing Series in 2016. See flyers for both programs in this edition of the Telltale! Registration is available on the website. Please note that members will need to use the coupon code **AYC2016** to obtain member pricing.

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We are still looking for seasonal instructors to staff our 2016 Junior Sailing Camp. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the AYC team this summer, please contact me!

### Junior Racing News

The second TSA regatta of the year was the Spring Fling Regatta at Lake Canyon Yacht Club March 12-13. Again, 16 AYC sailors made the trip. Special shout out to **Aidan Krempetz** who won Green Fleet and **Tony Slowik** who took third in RWB Fleet! Our Laser sailors had some added support on Sunday when **Coach Coleman** made a daytrip down to his home club to coach. Congrats to **Spencer LeGrande** who placed 2nd in Radials! GO AYC!

Several of our Opti sailors traveled out of state in March to compete in USODA events. Congrats to **Ethan, Fiona, Katie, and Wendi Froelich, Julius Heitkoetter and Lucas Tenrreio** who traveled to Mississippi for the USODA Gulf Coast Championship March 19-20! Special congrats to **Ethan** who placed 6th overall and **Julius Heitkoetter** who placed 12th overall in RWB! Also congrats to **Lucas** who also competed in the USODA Sunshine State Regatta in Key Biscayne, Florida March 12-13!



Work on the tables was completed way faster than expected, so we picked up rakes and bags and bagged close to 100 bags of leaves around the parking lot and bath house.

## Sea Scouts Report

by Chris Schuttger



Photos Bill Records

This past April 1 and 2, **Sea Scout Ship 681** held their 2nd Annual Sometimes Island Sail Days. Ship 681 is one of six active Sea Scout Units in the Austin Area (known as Capitol Area Council). The event was the vision of **Bosun Charles Guilhas** in 2015 as a way to introduce area Sea Scout Ships to the great facilities and programs of Austin Yacht Club.

This year saw double the participation from 2015 with a little over 30 participants from three ships. Activities included anchor watch drill, morning Flag ceremony, service project and day long sail to raft up on TOP of the Sometimes Islands (10+ feet below the surface).

The anchor watch activity is a rank advancement requirement for the third highest rank in Sea Scouts "Able". After standing watch, everyone had a VERY COLD night's sleep in tents. Following breakfast and opening Flag ceremony, work clothes were the order of the day as much sanding and paint slathering commenced on 11 picnic tables under the clubhouse.



Just before noon we all set sail for the Sometimes Islands, arriving for lunch and raft-up shortly before 1 p.m. **Bill Records** commented on our departure as the Sea Scout Armada headed out to claim the Sometimes Islands for AYC. Alas, we had no flag to plant on the submerged islands, but plenty of food to go around. Aside from the five main boats, we had a gaggle of Sunfish and one Laser that outpaced the whole fleet.



A GREAT time was had by all and many thanks to AYC for linking up with the Sea Scouts!!

# SAIL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

## **Learn to Sail Clinic** *Saturday, April 16*

AYC is offering a Learn to Sail Clinic for beginning and intermediate sailors to learn the basics aboard keelboats. Clinic includes: Land-Based Instruction – Basic sailing terms, How sails work; On-the-Water Instruction – Rigging, Steering, Crewing; Refreshments and Follow-up Talk.

### Course Fees

AYC Members: \$50.00

Non-Members: \$65.00

Please bring sunscreen, a reusable water bottle, hat and sunglasses. Close-toed water shoes/sandals or boat shoes, a sun protection shirt (rash guard or similar) and a waterproof layer are strongly recommended.

Register online at [AYC website](#).

## **US Sailing Level 1 Instructor Certification** *Instructor: Steve Gay April 23-24 and April 30-May 1*

The US Sailing Level 1 Instructor course provides sailing instructors with information about teaching beginner level sailors more safely, effectively and creatively. Topics covered include: classroom and on-the-water teaching techniques, risk management, safety issues, lesson planning, creative activities, ethical concerns and sports physiology and psychology.

### Course Prerequisites

- Candidate must have reached their 16th birthday within the calendar year that the course is being held in. Students younger than age 18 who complete the course will be designated as a Sailing Assistant until their 18th birthday.
- Sailing experience in small boats.
- Current US Sailing individual membership.
- Experience operating a safety boat. This skill will not be taught at the course. Instructor candidates lacking adequate experience should either seek opportunities for practice or attend a US Sailing Safe Powerboat Handling course.
- Ability to swim 50 yards both with and without PFD.
- National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Safe Boating certification.
- Ability to exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal skills.

### Course Fees

REGISTER BEFORE 3/26 FOR DISCOUNT

\$370 if received more than four weeks prior to course start date

\$390 if received within four weeks of course start date

\$440 if received within one week of course start date

For more information and registration, visit <http://www.ussailing.org/education/sbinstructor/level-1-instructor/>

## **Women's Sailing Clinic** *Saturday, May 7*

Our most popular adult Sail Training program returns Mother's Day weekend! Join us May 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a day of sailing, learning, new friends and fun! This clinic is taught exclusively for women by women! All levels of sailing experience welcome (even first time sailors!). Lunch and dinner included.

### Course Fees

\$60 AYC Member / \$85 Non-Member

Registration is now OPEN on the [AYC website](#). Sign up today – this one sells out fast!

Interested in volunteering? We need female instructors (skippers and crew), boats and male servers for dinner. Volunteering counts toward probationary requirements.

## **Beginner Level FJ Training Series for Adults** *Fridays, May 6, 13, 20 and 27*

Back by popular demand – AYC Sail Training is offering a beginner level FJ Training Series for adults in May. The FJ Training Series is designed to introduce adults to double-handed dinghy sailing through a series of four progressive weekly lessons. The May series will be coached by AYC coaching staff.

Registration is now OPEN on the [AYC website](#).

For information or to volunteer, contact AYC Sail Training Commander Bill Records at (512) 913-4989 or AYC Sailing Director Kate Noble at (512) 266-1336 or [kate@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:kate@austinyachtclub.net)

# AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

## PBJ Summer Sailing Series

Learn to sail this summer! The Austin Yacht Club's PB&J Summer Sailing Series is the perfect introduction to sailing for kids **ages 4-10**. Designed for first-time sailors, the goal of our PB&J program is to get young children comfortable on the water and spark a life-long interest in boating and sailing! Our US Sailing certified instructors keep things simple and fun, teaching the basics through games and hands-on learning. Each session of PB&J includes four weekly 90 minute lessons.

**ayc members: \$65.00**  
**non-members: \$100.00**

	DATES	TIME
1	June 4, 11, 18 & 25	9:30-11:00
2	June 4, 11, 18 & 25	11:00-12:30
3	July 9, 16, 23 & 30	9:30-11:00
4	July 9, 16, 23 & 30	11:00-12:30

## CONTACT

(512) 266-1336

kate@austinyachtclub.net

5906 Beacon Drive, Austin, TX

Register online:

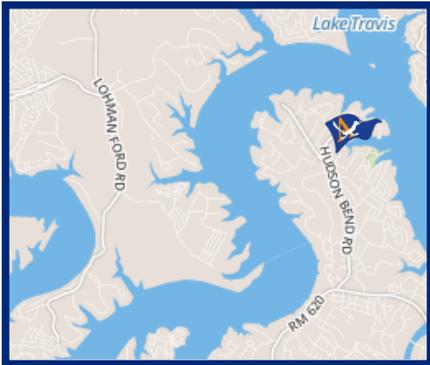
**AUSTINYACHTCLUB.NET**



# AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

## Junior Sailing Camp

The Austin Yacht Club's Junior Sailing Camp, located on beautiful Lake Travis, is a unique summer sailing experience for kids **ages 8-16**. Throughout your camper's week at AYC, they will learn and practice fundamental skills aboard our fleet of Optimists, Picos, Lasers, Sunfish, and Flying Juniors. With a camper to counselor ratio of 4 to 1, you can rest assured that your child will enjoy the exciting sport of sailing in a safe environment. Our camp runs Monday-Friday from 9:00-5:00 with an optional early drop-off and late pick-up hour available free of charge. Through a combination of classroom discussion, land activities, on the water drills, and games our campers gain the skills necessary to become life-long sailors! Special activities include racing, destination sailing, and windsurfing.



## CONTACT

(512) 266-1336

kate@austinyachtclub.net

5906 Beacon Drive, Austin, TX

Register online:

**AUSTINYACHTCLUB.NET**

**discounts available for multi-child and multi-session**

	DATES	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
1	June 13-17	\$395	\$480
2	June 20-24	\$395	\$480
3	June 27-July 1	\$395	\$480
4	July 11-15	\$395	\$480
5	July 18-22	\$395	\$480
6	July 25-29	\$395	\$480

# FJ Training Series: Beginner

FRIDAYS 6:00-8:00 pm

MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 (weather make-up date June 3)

Non-members: \$100 / AYC Members: \$60.00

*A progressive series of four lessons designed to introduce adults to dinghy sailing.*

*Register online at [austinyachtclub.net](http://austinyachtclub.net)*

*For more information, contact AYC Sailing Director Kate Noble at (512) 266-1336*



## ALERT: Clean, Drain and Dry Your Boat



The **zebra mussel** is a small freshwater mussel. This species was originally native to the lakes of southern Russia; however, the zebra mussel has been accidentally introduced to numerous other areas, and has become an invasive species in many different countries worldwide.

Please visit <http://www.texasinvasives.org/zebramussels/> to find out more about this invasive species and what we can all do to prevent its spread.

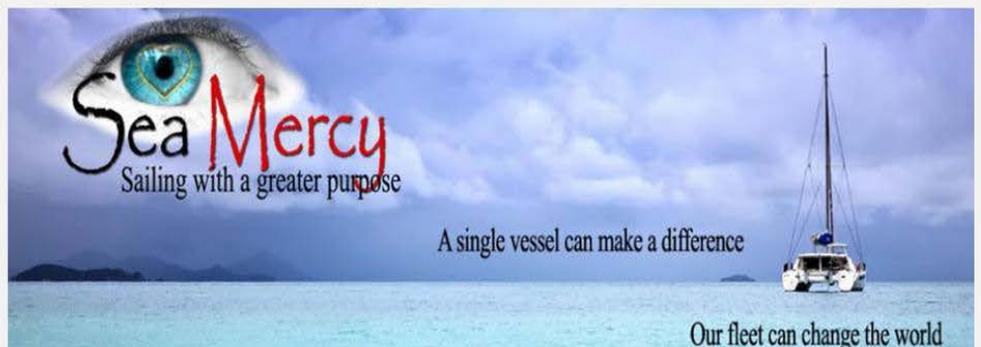
# March Madness

Photos *Bill Records*



Follow David and Cindy Balfour's cruising adventures at:  
[www.sailblogs.com/member/svfullcircle](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/svfullcircle)

This season they will be working with Sea Mercy to help with the restoration efforts in Fiji following Cyclone Winston. For more information or to donate please visit:  
[www.seamercy.org](http://www.seamercy.org)



# Easter Laser Regatta

Photos Bruce McDonald



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# Easter Laser Regatta



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# Easter Laser Regatta



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# "GET BACK"

To

## Turnback Canyon Regatta

May 28th-29th



Austin Yacht Club's legendary regatta "gets back" to its original format sailing from the AYC to Lago Vista Saturday morning May 28<sup>th</sup> and returning Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>. The City of Lago Vista will host the evening party with food and beverage vendors and live music from the "Eggmen" the Beatles cover band. Saturday and Sunday breakfast provided with registration. Sunday afternoon awards and Roadrunner fund raiser lunch will be held at AYC. Camping will be available at Lago Vista beach and camping gear transportation will be provided from AYC.

Registration information and form at: [www.austinyachtclub.net](http://www.austinyachtclub.net)

## "Get Back" to Turnback

by Diane Covert, Turnback Canyon Regatta Chair



### "Get Back" to Turnback

Everyone involved is excited to announce that this year's Turnback Canyon Regatta will "get back" to its original format by sailing to Lago Vista park on Saturday, May 28 and returning to AYC on Sunday, May 29.

The historic two-day, long-distance, overnight, out-and-back format for the Memorial Day weekend regatta started in the 50s, continued through the 70s and 80s when up to 300 boats participated, but was shortened in recent years when the lake dropped to extremely low levels. Now, with the lake full, the original Turnback configuration is back! As is the Saturday night party!

The City of Lago Vista will be sponsoring the Saturday evening event, with food and beverage vendors selling barbecue, Cajun food, and burgers. Lago Vista has already booked the "The Eggmen" band (<http://www.eggmen.com/>) who, if you haven't seen them, dress up and sound like "The Beatles"! It will be a dance party in the park with the Fab Four!

You can register for the Turnback Canyon Regatta online on the AYC website. There will also be on-site registration at AYC the Friday evening and Saturday morning before the race. Your registration includes pre-race breakfast at AYC on Saturday morning, and also breakfast at Lago Vista on Sunday morning in advance of the return leg of the regatta. If you have extra camping gear it can be loaded into an AYC-provided U-Haul on Saturday morning to be transported to and from Lago Vista park where there is a camping area near the anchorage.

At the conclusion of the regatta on Sunday, awards will be presented, the Roadrunners will be cooking burgers as a youth-sailing fundraiser, tall tales will be told, and a good time will be had by all! Please save the date and plan to "get back to Turnback" for 2016!



## WE'RE WATCHING!



## 2016 CHAPARRAL DE MAR "Roadrunner of the Sea"

Hosted by Ensign Fleet 30

**Participants:** Open to skippers (primary helmsmen) of age 75 years or older to compete for the annual Chaparral de Mar trophy. Also open to "Old Salts" between 70 to 74 years of age to compete in friendly competition for a mystery prize and bragging rights, pending availability of boats.

**Qualifications:** AYC Members, past AYC Members, or a parent of an AYC Member who raced at AYC with their child.

**Boats Provided:** The Ensign Class offers their boats, rigged and ready.

**Crew Provided:** The Ensign Class offers crew. Each boat will have at least one crew of the boat owner's choice. Additional Crew will be determined by boat-owner and skipper.

**Regatta Format:** One race, likely non-spinnaker, using a posted Long Distance Course, likely the last start on the Series Line.

**Date:** April 17, 2016, Meal and trophies to follow, at the AYC End of Spring Series Buffet.

**Boats are limited, first come first to be registered!**

If you plan to register to race, please notify:

Danny Lien     [dannyrien@gmail.com](mailto:dannyrien@gmail.com)     512 731 4627

Fred Ford     [ffordf@gmail.com](mailto:ffordf@gmail.com)     512 261 3270

## J/24 Fleet Update

by David Broadway



On March 19-20, the J/24 TX Circuit "March Madness" Regatta at AYC kicked off the 2016 Circuit season. There were 18 entries, more than any Circuit event in several years. In addition to the usual Circuit suspects, back trying to defend their 2011 win was team **New Rules** with Ryan Harden, Curtis Tarpley, Chris and Patrick Reynolds, and Tom Lappin.



Photos Deborah Mathison

For the four Saturday races, the wind conditions were steady 20 +/- mph with gusts into the low to mid 30 mph range, little jib weather, perfect for broaching. Course right was favored most of the day. Leading at the end of Saturday was **Natalie/Bob Harden on Giggles** with seven points. The winds did lay down somewhat for the two Sunday races, allowing for the 150% headsails. While the forecast was for the wind to clock from the NW towards the NE, there was backing breeze with the left side heavily favored as team **New Rules** found the way with two bullets on the day. However, despite a strong **New Rules** showing, it was the newest **Harden** entry, **Natalie and her Giggles** team which stole the show. With a consistent score of 1/3/2/1/4/3 for 14 points for 1st place, they held off a close **New Rules** charge with 16 total points for 2nd place. The AYC J/24 fleet had six entries in the top 10.



**John Parker and Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** along with their team of fleet volunteers did a fantastic job of organizing the event. Many thanks to **Vic Manning (PRO)** and the **J/22** fleet for a superb job of race management in very windy conditions! The next Circuit stop will be April 16-17 at the Fort Worth Boat Club.



*More March Madness photos on page 13.*

On the AYC Spring Series front, with no races on April 3 and the fleet Road Warriors off to the FWBC Circuit stop during the AYC End of Series, **John Parker's Chupa Cabra** team will win the Spring Series. Congratulations!

**Doichin Tzolov and Erich Meiske** have completed a bottom job on their new ride. As soon as they complete some deck repairs, they will be on the start line! Doichin created a fine video of the recent Circuit stop, complete with broaches, check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJBbPbCsuU&feature=youtu.be>

## Catalina 22 Fleet Update

by Steve Pervier



Spring Series 2016, so far, is keeping AYC racing weird! Thanks to a nice trade with the Multihull Fleet, we served RC duty on a very pleasant Opening Day – so no race for C22s. The third race day saw light and shifting air that drove the RC crazy until they finally gave in and hoisted code flag N. But on the second series date we got to race – for the only day this series, as of this article's deadline. Details follow!

On 3/13 we had a wild day for racing, with a rare WSW wind of 15 to 20kn gusting 25. Thanks again to the Multihulls for serving on this challenging date that would have been ours, and setting two W2 courses between Volente and Emerald Point Marina. The tricky wind shifted left before the start and stayed there, leaving the pin quite favored. This is just when you need good control of the boat, and not too much focus on wind speed. You need to watch the wind direction to avoid being caught on the wrong end and many boat lengths behind. An example of good control was **Arrggh!, #2363**. **Brian Grothues** and his crew had plenty of weight on the rail, and with lots of power well controlled they led the C22s and passed quite a few Ensigns.

*continued next page*

## Ensign Fleet Update

by Fred Ford



Photos Cheryl Pervier

C22 #2363 looking fast with a full main and 125%, about to take the lead from #7619

Between races we watched the RC drag the pin to leeward, so we re-measured the line – and found the wind had just clocked left, again making the pin well favored! It had also increased a tad, and with the jib still on deck, my first mate, **Cheryl**, made a case for reefing. So we did that, not so quickly, drifting downwind from the pin. Finally with 30 seconds to go we headed for the line again, starting a bit late but well upwind of the fleet. Once again **Arrggh!** came from behind and sailed past. The whole fleet stayed closer than in Race 1, and though we took advantage of

shifts upwind, then flat water near shore and a rhumb line course downwind it looked like the same 1-2-3-4. **Brian** should have won, but RC said they sailed across the finish line in mid-race for a DSQ. They were in good company with too many boats in various starts doing the same thing. Even if the finish line is long, we have to avoid it.

The variation in sails chosen for this day of racing was surprising. **John Grzinich's Be-Bop-A-Lula** went with genoa and full main! **Arrggh!** with 125% genoa had the second most sail. Our **Affinity #7619** carried a 110% jib and a full then reefed main, while **Steve and Meri Shepardson's Chili Verde #9802** had jib and reefed main all day.



C22 Sport #15563 keeps her feet with a powerful 150% and a main eased to "fisherman's reef."



C22 #9802, well set up with 110% class jib (by design not full hoist) and reefed main.

Send me email if you want to be on our mailing list – for crew places, boat tips, and special events (like "Amazing Restorations" at the [CatFleet69.org](http://CatFleet69.org) meeting on April 14). We're looking forward to Summer Series now, starting 5/1. Join us for the best wind, water, and temperature combo all year. See you on the water!



The Spring Series is over and by the time this article reaches the press we will be well into the Summer Series. Six Ensigns finished the Spring Series ... a series most remembered for its mostly pleasant temperatures and great variety of winds. The Ensign fleet brought six boats to the line for races that featured gusty strong winds, light winds, perfect winds and a cancellation due to no wind. **Chula (Tom Groll)** sailed a first for the series, **Sundance (Elliot Bray)** a second, **Prickly Pair (Bill and Kelly Hawk)** a third, **Styf Kop (George Dahmen)** fourth, **Dos Locos (Lewis Price)** fifth followed by **Blue Dreams (Eric Creamer)**.



Tom Groll and crew guide Chula through a gust

Gusty, strong winds brought up some safety issues for the fleet. Ensigns have a full keel with a small rudder and need lead time to maneuver under such conditions. A productive

exchange of ideas and safety tips was offered on our recently created Internet group ... thank you **Bill Hawk** for creating the group and keeping the fleet communicating.

If you look around the fleet you may have noticed our Ensigns are looking a little spiffier over the last two years. **Styf Kop (George Dahmen)** back in fine shape, **J. Seagull (Jonathan Baker)** got a face lift, **Chula (Tom**



Elliott Bray sails Sundance in a breeze



Bill and Kelly Hawk, Anne Riggs on Prickly Pair

**and Kelly Groll)** completely rebuilt with beautiful brightwork, **Prickly Pair (Bill and Kelly Hawk)** sports the prettiest green hull

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and **September (Fred Ford)** is back hull faired and a total repaint. Beauty is contagious ... **Dos Locos (Lewis Price)** is in the yard and will be back soon all bright and shiny, **Festina Lente (Randolph Bertin)** is waiting for her turn at the beauty parlor. We are putting on our best for the Ensign Region IV Championships that our fleet is hosting on **June 15, 16, 17 and 18**. The lake is full and we are expecting a lot of boats and a lot of good sailing.

On **April 17** the fleet is turning their Summer End of Series race into a regatta. Back by popular demand is the **Chaparral de Mar Regatta**. Hosted by the Ensign Fleet, the regatta is open to Club racing skippers, former Club racing skippers and racing skipper parents of AYC skipper members. To qualify a skipper must have racing experience and be over 70 years of age. There are two competition categories. Ages 70-74 compete for a bottle of wine, 75 and up compete for a bottle of wine and their name on the perpetual trophy. The fleet will provide a crewed race-ready Ensign complete with advisor skipper to all competitors. In the event we have more entrants than boats, the older skippers will have priority.

If you are interesting in competing or know someone who might be interested contact **Danny Lien, Regatta Chair** at 512-731-4627 or [dannylien@gmail.com](mailto:dannylien@gmail.com).



Boat not in need of restoration? Here is Zydeco looking spiffy after a good going over by **Ethan Froelich and the Juniors**.

Is your boat restored or cleaned or maybe it's looking scruffy or has lovely green algae floating about it? No matter, it's almost time for **Friday Night Beer Can Races hosted by the Keel Handicap Fleet**, and no matter what your boat looks like, if it floats and can sail around the lake, it's invited!! The races begin on **Friday, April 22, and go through Friday, September 16**.

What are Beer Can Races, you ask!! These are fun and informal races with a staggered start so all participants finish around the same time. The races take place in the main basin of Lake Travis starting and finishing from the "No Wake" Buoys at the entrance to the AYC harbor. The course is round the AYC marks B, E, and Channel Mark 5 in any order you choose. The races in April and September will start at 6:30 P.M. so you can get in before dark. You do not have to come in then, we just thought some of you would like to put your boat up while you can still see what you are doing. In May through August the first boat will start at 7:00 P.M. Your exact start time is based on your PHRF handicap, which you find on the AYC bulletin board or the AYC website. If your boat is made to fly a spinnaker and you don't fly it you can start 30 Seconds earlier than your posted time.

Protests: Really? Settle these among yourselves over a cool drink and a burger after the race. The KHF will set aside a special picnic table for you and invite everyone over to offer advice.

Winner, Winner Chicken Dinner! The winner gets something to be determined by the KHF, usually a bottle of wine but occasionally something else and sometimes just a pat on the back if we forget to purchase prizes. And hey, before you start whining about that, remember the entrance fee was zip, zero, nada.

Each time you win, add 30 seconds to your start time for the rest of the races. Save your killer instincts for Sunday, we want everyone to win even if they have an inch or two of moss on their hull.

Post-race social activities are limited only by your imaginations – just keep in mind this is a family oriented venue. The KHF will provide a tasty meal for the low, low price of only \$5.00 to make sure you are well nourished for whatever you decide to do after racing.

Please come out and race or volunteer to help out with dinners when you are not racing!!

## Keel Fleet Update

by Karen Bogisch and Bob Goldsmith



Keel Fleet participation is going way up! A fleet is very healthy and it looks like B and C fleet participation is almost doubling from last year.

We are also seeing one classic race boat after another restored and back on the line. Here are two boats that were being very photogenic when I was walking around the docks the other day.



This is **Kurt Carson's** real cool J-29. Looks great and is making quite a mark in A Fleet.

Photos *Bob Goldsmith*



**John Thurston's** Ross 30 doesn't just look like a fighter plane - it goes like one too. Looks like it will take home some silver for John from the Spring Series.

## C Fleet Update

by James Parsons



March is a very active time at AYC, so Spring Series #2 was the only race for us since the last update. We also had RC duty for Spring Series #3.

Welcomes and goodbyes:

Before going into the racing, I would like to welcome **Victor Gotay** to the fleet, officially. He's been crew with **John Durfor's Pearson 26, Blue Note** for quite

some time. He's purchased **Mack Warner's** old San Juan 24, and hopes to have it ready for Turnback Canyon Regatta.

I would like to also welcome **Dave Weeks**. He has also been around the Club for a while, and purchased a spiffy orange Pearson 26 from **Fred Schroth**.

We are also seeing **Lemon Jello**, the perennial light air winner, no longer racing with us. **Doichin and Erich** have purchased a J/24 with lots of local history, and are now listing Lemon Jello for sale (another San Juan 24). It is very competitively priced, I must say. Have a chat with them, as I don't want to print a price that is incorrect.

### Spring Race #2

Very light winds gave way to some pretty heavy winds, which saw more than a few broaches.

**Dave Weeks' new Pearson 26** was off to an awesome start. The only blemishes on his hull might be water marks. **Bill Records** wasn't far behind, and turned a wide turn by Dave into a lead. Bill went on to win, and Dave got a 2nd in his first race.

**John Durfor** was in the hunt, as always. He finished 63 seconds behind Dave.

The best race was between 4th and 6th. **Larry Haig on Blue Moon** was quite a bit ahead, but on the last leg or two **Pirate Unicorn and Lady Love** were catching up. The latter two were duking it out, especially on the downwind legs. All three finished within 35 seconds of each other at the line. With PHRFs ranging from 213 to 219 between the three boats, it was bound to be close. **Larry Haig** ended up finishing an agonizing 26 seconds in front of **Pirate Unicorn**. The handicap was estimated to be 25 seconds. . . in the end, Larry held on to 4th place by two seconds over the **Pirate Unicorn**. **Ted Scardamalia's Lady Love** was in 6th, 48 seconds back.

**Roger Huth's O'day 28** rounded things out, only three minutes later, and 13 minutes behind the winner.

C Fleet didn't escape the wrath of the poisonous finish line, so honorable mentions go to **Diane Coveri's Soulstice** and **Jeff Avant's Columbia 26** for competing. Albeit, possibly not with the right fleet, and probably over the finish line before the last leg.

Note to Neptune: As one C Fleet boat passed the **Pirate Unicorn** downwind, the ritual of having a crew member swim as a sacrifice, was held up. **Brice Elder** volunteered, and we performed a live man overboard drill. Note: There is not a plank installed on the **Pirate Unicorn**. Even if the bilge boards may look like they could be used as one. Brice left of his own accord, and helped preserve this unicorn from extinction.

### Race Committee, Spring Race #3

There were certainly some interesting conditions for my first race as PRO. Fortunately, the interesting characters we had made for a fun day, despite the trying circumstances.

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in trying really really hard to get a race off, in conditions that were more akin to a midsummer day in Austin than a springtime race. The temperature was perfect, however, so I was glad no one was anywhere close to heat exhaustion.



The RC crew was: **Chris Thompson, Larry Haig, Bill Records, Jeff Avant, Nick Dawe, Brice Elder, Steve Ward, Mark Bradford, Kristin Pajares, Owen Crouse, Erich Meiske** (he may have a J/24, but he didn't leave us out to dry), and **Evan Payne** (a coworker, who hasn't sailed yet, but may be signed up as a trimmer already on **Jus Knot Rite**), and yours truly.

We did get one race in, however. The Multihull As got to round Mile Marker 6 and were finished early at Mile Marker 5. They had a photo finish.

### THE JAMES GANG TRAVELS TO HOUSTON



Seven brave souls went to Houston for GBCA's 32nd Performance Cup Regatta. T'was the roughest weather many locals remember sailing in, but the Austinites that travelled had a great time, and showed them what lake sailors are made of. In an interesting twist, there were a few parallels to Austin.

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A running aground: **Emilie Lynch and Philip Jones** were aboard **Solaire**, an Ericson 39 in the Cruising Spinnaker Fleet. They definitely had the most eventful story of the day, so I think I'll start the day with them.

The skipper, **Chris Haas**, has fixed the boat up quite nicely after getting her for a bargain. With strong north winds, Galveston Bay's waters are pushed out of its southern entrance. What is jokingly referred to as a bay where you can step up onto the mast should your boat go down, became even shallower than normal. In the process of leaving the marina, **Solaire** ran aground in muck. While waiting for a tow boat to come out, a local boat helped them out of their predicament. A wee bit late for the start, they hustled out the start line, five minutes late. The parallel to Austin: a skipper named Chris, with an Ericson.

A backup boat: **Figaro** is either a Pearson Contessa 39, or a Saga 43, depending on the conditions. The boats are named after the Mozart opera from Salzburg, which is the same city that the skipper, **Gerhard Wittich**, is from. Both boats are also in the Cruising Spinnaker Fleet. With a draft of nine feet, the Saga 43 (aka **Big Fig**) was in too much danger of running aground, so the Contessa it was (aka **Little Fig**).

(Random fact: One of the characters in the opera Figaro is a Contessa (a Countess). Gerhard had the Contessa from the opera join them for a sail, aboard a Contessa 39, named Figaro.)

The Austin crew consisted of **James Parsons, Brice Elder, and Andrea Rampone**. The parallel to Austin: All three above crew are regulars aboard the **Pirate Unicorn**, a Pearson 26 (more accurately: Skipper, First Mate B, and First Mate A). I didn't realize that **Little Fig** was a Pearson yacht until I looked up information about Contessas tonight.

A boat to make a fleet: **Leading Edge** is a J/109, and her owner was nowhere near Houston. So he asked **Chris Dees** (2015's GBCA Commodore) if he'd like to skipper it. Three boats were needed for a fleet, and **Leading Edge** was a potential third boat. Chris usually is crew aboard **Figaro**, however he knew of someone who could find him a replacement on **Figaro** ... and possibly crew to help fill out **Leading Edge**. My eyes lit up when I heard that the Houston sailors would like to have some Austin sailors down to help get them on the water. If you know me, this is my favorite part about sailing. Not winning, because, well, I've haven't won (as skipper), in this hemisphere ... yet. But making an impact, by helping find crew for a boat in need, or introducing new crew to a sport they can stick with forever? Absolutely, no matter what hemisphere it is. The Austin Crew consisted of **Emy Usheva and Miranda Grummons**, both a part of UTSC, and regulars on J/24s. The parallel to Austin: For these two, it was all about them Js, about them Js, no PHRF.

The race: Due to Saturday's festivities being abandoned for rough weather, one race was going to make a regatta. **Leading Edge** was able to make the J/109 fleet a reality, and they came in second of the three boats. The real race, for us Austin folks, was in the Cruising Spinnaker Fleet. As mentioned earlier, the Ericson 39 gave everyone else a five minute head start. **Little Fig** was hoping to get some pictures of their fellow competitors, but didn't see them, until after the finish. Often, when I help a boat get crew, they beat me more often than not. Have you

tried beating the **Dahmens** in an Ensign? They've got my friend **Kathryn** onboard, and she's become a better Ensign sailor than I (may ever be). I won once as crew with them in a Beer Can race, when a woman I met that evening named **Linda McDavitt** was helming ... in all seriousness, I don't mind not winning, and I'm not going to teach them how to discreetly drop a bucket, tied to a cleat (or have I?). The smiles from everyone afterwards makes up for it. This weekend in Houston? No different. We had a great time after the race, and had an amazing time hanging out with the crew of **Figaro**.

Oh yes, and you guessed it, **Figaro** didn't win. The boat that did? The one that gave everyone a five minute head start took some gambles in the race, and they paid off. How can you not be thrilled for a boat that almost didn't make it out to the race, to end up passing everyone and win? We had an absolute blast, and all the planning for it really paid off. If you want in going down to Houston, please get in touch. 80% of the races don't conflict with AYC's schedule, and I'm getting to know more and more folks down there.



### MOONBURN TRIAL RUN (to the tune of Gilligan's Island)

Just sit right back  
And you'll hear a tale  
A tale of a joyful trip,  
That started from this yacht club port,  
Aboard this 26 ft sloop.

The Mate was a mighty sailin' woman,  
The Skipper brave and sure.  
Six passengers set sail that day,  
For a three\* hour trial,  
A three\* hour trial...

\*2hrs 39 minutes, to be exact

The weather started getting ideal (14 kts average)  
The 26ft sloop was taking pictures.  
If not for some excellent photographers,  
The photos would be lost.  
The photos would be lost.

The sun ran aground behind the shore,  
Of a European looking estate

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The power lines loomed overhead,  
But keeping west of Mile Marker 9 allowed,  
For all to not get a shock.  
All to not get a shock.

Soon the moon was rising,  
And the shore could be seen,  
What a beautiful night,  
For a three\* hour trial,  
A three\* hour trial. . .

The course for the evening,  
Was very pleasant, with steady SSE winds,  
Start at Mile Marker 6,  
Reach to Mile Marker 9,  
Tack up to Mile Marker 12,  
And back down to Mile Marker 9,  
Hazards on the way to 9,  
To be mindful of, there were a few,  
Watching out for accidental jibes,  
And marina's that pop up out of nowhere,  
And low lying power lines,  
But one thing to not be mindful of,  
Applying sunscreen, as you can't get a MoonBurn,  
Along the way to Mile Marker 9  
The way to Mile Marker 9.

The last leg, was a close reach towards 6,  
Which turned into an upwind technical leg,  
And on to finish, at Mile Marker 6,  
At Mile Marker 6. . .

The crew of this joyful trip,  
On this 26ft sloop on a full Lake Travis.  
With Andrea (the Mate),  
The Skipper too (James),  
A new Tableau referral (Jennifer),  
A regular Pirate Unicorn cruiser (Nancy),  
A former Corpus Christi racer (Christian),  
Ahab's right hand for finding Moby Dick (Joey),  
A Caribbean skipper and regular local crew (Emilie),  
And the first timer, who signed the Pirate Unicorn log,  
"The best night of sailing I've ever had",  
Signed by Adam, who we jokingly called Cap'n Dorsey,  
So join us here each full moon Friday this summer my friends,  
You're sure to get a smile,  
From three full moon races,  
That we've called the MoonBurn Trilogy,  
Here on a full Lake Travis!

More details:

Date Moonrise Sunset Start  
6/17 6:12 PM 8:35 PM 8:30 PM  
7/15 4:56 PM 8:34 PM 8:30 PM  
8/19 9:11 PM 8:07 PM 8:00 PM

## Race To Cuba, Part 2

by Ed Taylor



This story continues on the Conch Republic Cup, consisting of three 90 mile offshore races mixed with some buoy races from Key West to Varadero and Havana, Cuba.

With a West flowing counter current and arriving very early at the finish just off Hemingway Marina which is nine miles to the West of Havana. The harbor guides on jet skis at 4:00 A.M. were an interesting invitation to follow them through the short well-lit channel into the marina.



As soon as you enter the marina basin, Customs will be on your left or port under a canopy and blue building. The Customs guys are nice but as usual expect some delays with more duplication of the same handwritten documents from Customs. Fortunately we had a Columbian on board who spoke Spanish and was very helpful in communication throughout our stay.



All boat parking is end-to-end along four jetties lined with condos or if you're lucky, get the ocean side jetty for a better view. The Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba is at the end of the middle jetty and an easy walk from all dock locations. Our Canadian travel agent set us up at the all-inclusive three-star Club Acuatico. Some of our crew noticed when this hotel was new 25 years ago nothing had changed since then, not even the bed spreads. Some had to twist wires together for the air conditioning and not worry about the missing toilet seats. Fortunately for some the bar is open 24 hours for our unknown short stay.

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Havana is about an hour away and for about \$50 you can ride along the famed Malecon in one of the convertible '57 Chevys powered by a Russian diesel. Between the Cuban propaganda and the immense Russian concrete monuments and buildings, the ride into Havana was like stepping back 60 years with every possible type of architecture that has not been cleaned or painted since. Our walk around downtown Havana's gift shops and restaurants kept us energized while all the time looking for the famed watering hole – La Bodeguita del Medio (not la Floridita) and enjoy a Mojito and cigar at Hemingway's favorite bar.



The Hemingway International Yacht Club of Cuba put on an excellent awards party that night with a two-pig roast and plenty of rum. It was also announced two days early the coastal race and the race back to Key West would start immediately the next day due to a forecasted weather front with strong North winds. Our sudden departure meant finding food and drink for the crew and getting to the super Mercado 10 kilometers back into town. This opens a 9:00 A.M. Yes they have beer and the bread store is across the parking lot. There is no ice in Cuba (in all of the Caribbean for that matter) so find what little ice you can at the hotel or yacht club. After clearing Customs, our race back started under the walls of Morro Castle for a very fast nine-hour rough ride back to Key West.



A sailing trip to Cuba is a cultural experience that should not be missed. Make your plans early before the rest of the US finds this island 90 miles off our shores.

## "Sail With Steve"

Blog by Steve Ward



March 15, 2016

Last Sunday, with sunny skies and wind building from the west, I hopped on **Bill Records'** boat and started the second race of the Spring series at the Austin Yacht Club. I'm here with three other people crewing on Bill's Pearson 26, **Cafe au Lait**. **Emy** is a college student, **Charlie's** in real estate and **Karen**, like me, works in high tech.

Bill's been around the Club since the late 70s so he knows these waters and how to win a yacht race. My nickname for Bill is "The Mayor" – he knows everyone and he's so outgoing, quick with a smile and a joke. I met Bill three years ago when he was "Coach Bill" for **Anna's** sailing summer camp, before we joined the Club.

"Austin Yacht Club" sounds funny to me. "Yacht Club" makes me think stuffy old rich guys in a blue blazers and tassel loafers. AYC is nothing like that. No stuffiness here. Too many kids, flip flops and chips 'n queso for stuffy.

The Club's been here since 1951 and occupies a gorgeous stretch of land on Beacon Cove, about

25 minutes from downtown Austin. I like the way another member put it, "when you come through the front gate, it's like you're on vacation." The grounds are filled with oak trees and the water is, of course, lovely.

My wife is a smart woman. She's nudged me to join the Club a few times over the past many years. She was so right. I'm glad I finally joined late last year.

It's a great place for me (for our whole family, really). There are so many interesting, fun and generous people at the Club.

**Kate and Coleman** do a fantastic job running the Junior sailing program which is growing and filling the calendar with kids events.

Early this year I went to a meeting of the Sail Training committee. I was amazed at the experience of the people in the room. **Carolyn** was on a winning Mallory Cup team. **Linda McDavitt**, a member, is half way through the Clipper Round the World race (in QINGDAO, China at the moment). Another member said he's been sailing for sixty years. **Harry** is a US Coast Guard Captain and used to run a sailing school in Dallas. **Susan and Brad** raced for decades and used to run a boat dealership in Dallas before moving down to Austin.



Photos Steve Ward

Yacht Club dock

*continued next page*

Right before our race started Bill called for a sail change to a smaller jib. Good thing because the wind kept building and the bigger jib would have



The crew hard at work

been way too much. On our last downwind leg a big gust – high 20s, I'm guessing – caused us to broach and round up (translation, tip over and soak the people, sails and cockpit)!

In the end we got the boat back on its feet, pulled down and stowed the too big spinnaker sail and got back into the race. We managed to stay in front and win our class (our second in a row).



The winning crew on Sunday: L-R Karen, Bill, Emy, Charlie and me (Photo by Steven)

I had great fun sailing with **Bill, Emy, Charlie and Karen**. I can't wait to get out there again.

For more of Steve's blog, visit <https://sailwithsteve.com/2016/03/15/yacht-racing/>

## Linda McDavitt's Race Around the World from Linda's Blog

This is an edited version of Linda's blog. To read the full text and enjoy all of Linda's photos, please visit <https://www.bandboat.wordpress.com/>



Written March 19, 2016

### Qingdao

Though we still ended up accepting our position and motoring to finish, we made it with no major injuries! Once we started our motor around 12:30 a.m., we began our deep clean of the boat and finally made it to deck after 1 p.m. to get ready to go into port.



Enjoying a cold drink while we circle around outside of Qingdao until our escort brings us in. Han brought a bottle of peach champagne (NON alcoholic since alcohol not allowed on boat) to celebrate arrival.



Reception at the dock. I love how other boats and crew are there to cheer us on.



The welcome continues.



We also received a beautiful and WARM red scarf. I went to a primary school the next morning to visit.

And then my camera battery died. We also saw a martial arts exhibit, got to let the students show us how to play the ancient instruments, learned a little Kung Fu from them, played some of the Robotic games they set up and just had an amazing morning.

Need to leave you now as race start is in the morning and I need to finish packing up my gear. But I will leave you with two thoughts:

- No google or Facebook access in China also. (What, amazing that somewhere in the world you cannot access them.)
- Have a great month and back to you sometime after April 16th!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore	Molly Lewis
Past Commodore	Barry Bowden
Vice Commodore	Wade Bingaman
Secretary	Annie Lancaster
Treasurer	John Howard
Race Commander	Ed Taylor
Buildings & Grounds Cdr.	Chris Thompson
Harbor Commander	Joe Roddy
Sail Training Commander	Bill Records

## AYC STAFF

General Manager	Jackie Wheeless
Head Caretaker	Tom Cunningham
Sailing Director	Kate Noble

## AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

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Office FAX: 512-266-9804  
Clubhouse: 512-266-1897

## E-MAIL AND WEBSITE

[www.austinyachtclub.net](http://www.austinyachtclub.net)  
[office@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:office@austinyachtclub.net)

## NEWSLETTER

Susie McDonald, Editor  
[telltale@austinyachtclub.net](mailto:telltale@austinyachtclub.net)

## AYC BUSINESS HOURS

Wednesday - Sunday 9:00A - 5:00P  
CLOSED MONDAY AND TUESDAY

### Closed Club Holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1
Easter Sunday	April 5
Independence Day	July 4
Thanksgiving Day	November 26
Shopping Day	November 27
Christmas Day	December 25

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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## AYC 2016 RACE CALENDAR

Apr 17 (Sun)	Spring Series #4 End of Series 1:30p Start	B Fleet RC
Apr 17	Chaparral de Mar Regatta	
Apr 22, 29	Beer Can Races 6:30p	
Apr 23-24	J/70 Circuit Stop	
Apr 23-24	SEISA Team Racing Championship	
Apr 27	Sunfish and Laser Series 6:00p	
Apr 30-May 1	McCarthy Cup	
May 1	Summer Series #1 1:30p Start	
May 4, 11, 18, 25	Sunfish and Laser Series 6:00p	
May 6, 13, 20, 27	Beer Can Races 7:00p	
May 13-15	J-22 Circuit Stop	
May 15	Summer Series #2 1:30p Start	
May 22	Summer Series #3 1:30p Start	
May 28-29	Turnback Canyon Regatta	

## AYC 2016 NON-RACING EVENTS

Apr 13, 20, 27	Opti II/III Practice	5:00-7:30p
Apr 14, 21, 28	Laser Practice	5:00-7:30p
Apr 15, 22	FJ Training Series	6:00-8:00p
Apr 16	Learn to Sail Clinic	1:00-5:00p
Apr 16	Explore Austin Sail	10:00a-1:00p
Apr 16-17	ASA 101 Basic Keelboat Certification	8:30a-5:30p
Apr 16, 23, 30	Opti I Practice	12:00-2:30p
Apr 16	Opti II/III Practice	10:00a-3:00p
Apr 16, 23, 30	FJ/Laser Practice	3:00-5:30p
4/17	End of Series Banquet	Follows Race
Apr 17, 24	Free Sail Sunday	1:00-4:00p
Apr 23-24, 30-May 1	US Sailing Level 1 Course	8:00a-5:00p
Apr 28	AYC Board of Directors Meeting	7:30-9:00p
Apr 30	Work Day	
May 1, 8, 15, 22	Free Sail Sunday	1:00-4:00p
May 4, 11, 18, 25	Opti II/III Practice	5:00-7:30p
May 5, 12, 19, 26	Laser Practice	5:00-7:30p
May 6, 13, 20, 27	FJ Training Series	6:00-8:00p
May 7, 21	Opti II/III Practice	10:00a-3:00p
May 7, 14, 21	Opti I Practice	12:00-2:30p
May 7, 14, 21	FJ/Laser Practice	3:00-5:30p
May 7	Women's Sailing Clinic	9:00a-7:00p
May 14-15	Boy Scout Campout	
May 21-22	ASA Basic Keelboat Certification	8:30a-5:30p
May 26	AYC Board of Directors Meeting	7:30-9:00p



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