



A Fitting Way to End Another Great Year



Photo Bruce McDonald *Annual Banquet*

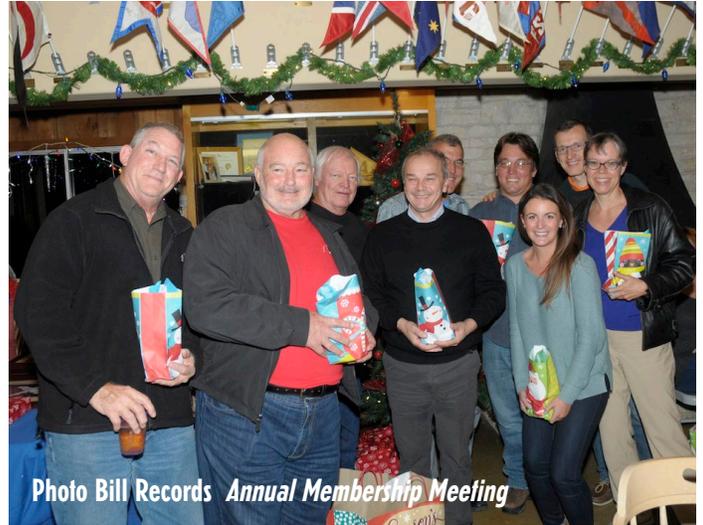


Photo Bill Records *Annual Membership Meeting*



Photo Bruce McDonald *Wild Turkey Regatta*

IN THIS ISSUE

2015 Perpetual Awards
Board of Directors Reports
Notes from your GM
Welcome New Members
Sailing Director Report
Fleet Captain Updates
Roadrunner Fleet News
Wild Turkey Regatta

Annual Membership Meeting
Annual Banquet
2015 Recognition Awards
Raid des Corsaires Part 2 by Mike Beuerlein
Linda McDavitt's Race Around the World
Fall Work Day

Peace, Health and Happiness to All!

Congratulations!

Austin Yacht Club Perpetual Awards Recipients 2015



Amanda Casey

Jimmy B. Card Memorial Trophy

This Award honors the Club senior new to the sport and recognizes the beginning sailor who, enthusiastically, bravely and with a real zest and enjoyment for life, becomes a reasonably competitive sailor in their first or second year of sailing.



Scott Young

Max White Memorial Trophy

This Award honors the individual who has given, freely and unselfishly, their time and talents over and above what might otherwise have been necessary or expected of them.



Renee Ruais

Corinthian Woman Sailor Trophy

This Award honors the woman sailor who exhibits the Corinthian traits of good sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and participation, thereby making an overall contribution to the sport of competitive sailing.



John Saunders

Ol' Salt of the Austin Yacht Club

This Award honors the club senior sailor who has exhibited enthusiasm, sportsmanship and a competitive zeal over a period of time, and a quality of life that can be admired by all.



Ben Froelich

Ron W. Harden Memorial Trophy

This Award honors the young man who, though not necessarily the most accomplished sailor, demonstrates traits of cooperation, discipline, willingness to learn and good sportsmanship that are the goals of the junior sailing program.



Ethan Froelich

Jessie McIlroy Smith Bowl

This Award honors the Club junior or senior sailor who has made an outstanding contribution or achievement in yachting beyond the club level or normal club activities, such as significant application of sailing skills in a rescue, ocean crossing, yacht construction, etc.



Fiona Froelich

Liz Bauman Memorial Trophy

This Award honors the young woman who, though not necessarily the most accomplished sailor, demonstrates traits of cooperation, discipline, willingness to learn and good sportsmanship that are the goals of the junior sailing program.



Markus, Constanze & Julius Heitkoetter

Bill Records RoadRunner Fleet Trophy

To the club member who has gone beyond expectations to serve and volunteer on behalf of the RoadRunner Fleet. This trophy is to be given to the club member, who consistently, and over a long period of time, acts as a pivotal leader and contributor, furthering the advancement of the program development.

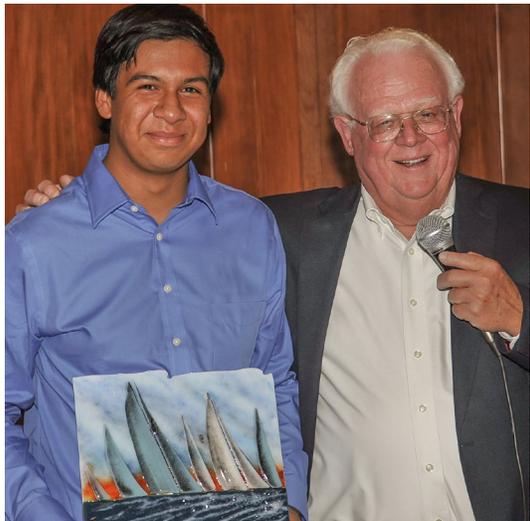


Photos Bruce McDonald

continued next page

From The Commodore

by Barry Bowden



TOP TEN REASONS I ENJOYED 2015 AT AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

It is hard to believe my year as Commodore of the Austin Yacht Club has come to an end, but before the year ends, I wanted to share the Top Ten Reasons I had such a great year as your Commodore.

1. The lake filled up – and the LCRA adopted a new water plan to hopefully keep from emptying it so fast when it does not rain.
2. The docks all got moved back into the harbor and now we have such nice easy access to the docks.
3. We finally have a plan to add two new sets of steps to make it easier to get to the docks.
4. We replaced Dock 5 with a new dock, and now the last of our old pipe and foam docks are gone.
5. We purchased four new board boat docks for the Junior dock and will be getting nine more just like them in the next year.
6. We upgraded the cabins with new beds, linens, and window coverings to make them look like really nice places to stay. And people have been renting them in record numbers.
7. We added **Coleman Terrell** to our staff to assist our **Sailing Director, Kate Noble**.
8. The Junior Program has a new RIB and dock to make it easier to coach our young sailors.
9. Our fleet of FJs is being used more and more. Lessons are being given to teach members to sail double-handed centerboard boats and our Fleet Challenge using the FJs continues to have great attendance and fund raising.
10. We have a new Board of Directors led by **Commodore Molly Lewis**, who will lead the Austin Yacht Club to another great year in 2016.

I had such a great time serving as your Commodore and I am glad you gave me the opportunity to do so. I think everyone will agree that my list, and probably some things I missed so I could keep it to just 10, shows what a great place we have in the Austin Yacht Club.

We have such a wonderful staff led by our **General Manager Jackie Wheeless, Tom Cunningham, groundskeeper and all-around helper, and Sailing Director, Kate Noble**. It was a pleasure working with all of them and also the Board of Directors that served with me. I am looking forward to the future at the Austin Yacht Club.

Vice Commodore Report

by Molly Lewis



2015 has been a terrific year at Austin Yacht Club! The lake is up, docks are back in the harbor (including our new Dock 5), we are in the process of building new stairways with handrails to the docks, membership is holding steady, the Roadrunner Fleet is doing amazing things both at the Club and on the road, we are making plans to replace Board Boat docks, and are poised for an amazing year in 2016. As I look ahead, it has occurred to me that in every formal role I've ever played at AYC, from Social Chair to Treasurer to Vice Commodore, I've been really lucky to have had really great footsteps to follow and lots of hands to help me along the way.

I'd like to give a quick shout-out to some of those hands who specifically helped with 2015 AYC Regattas:

- **Steve Pervier** co-chaired the Turnback Regatta. Highlights include: rains that led to a 30 foot rise in lake levels over the following week, a lesson learned about food trucks, an amazing band (the Shoal Brothers) who played on through the rain, AYC party-ers who danced on through the rain, a herculean effort by **Tom Cunningham, Tom Lappin, and Ryan Hardin** in the early morning hours to make the docks accessible by race time on Sunday, and some pretty great racing to boot!
- **Jeff Brock and Stephan Froelich** chaired the Roadrunner Regatta/USODA championship. We had amazing turnout, terrific race committees (led by **Vic Manning, Barry Bowden, and Jim Casto**), a superbly run event complete with delicious food by the Roadrunners, all earning AYC the 2015 TSA Regatta of the Year award!
- **Dane Ohe and Vic Manning** chaired the Centerboard Regatta. This was the only non-rainy AYC regatta of 2015 and it was a glorious fall weekend, with big and shifty winds on Saturday and lighter winds on Sunday, providing many opportunities for sailors to test their skills in different conditions. The race committee and competitors successfully executed a potentially intimidating trapezoid course, even with the shifty wind conditions.
- Finally, **James Wilsford** chaired a great Governor's Cup Regatta, and was flexible and quick enough to make the right call at the right point to postpone from the originally scheduled date to the following weekend due to heavy storms. The racing and partying were terrific with another great band (the Mau Mau Chaplains). James took advantage of the newly scheduled date to have a kids' (of all sizes) Halloween costume party.
- In addition to these amazing chairs, special thanks also go to **John Grzinich, Chris Thompson, and Kate Noble** for implementing a no-cost on-line registration system, to **Chris Thompson** for the scoring, to **Sun Hi Casey** for beautiful and highly coveted Turnback and Gov Cup trophies, and all the many, many other volunteers who gave their time to help make all of these events great!

Looking ahead to 2016, I am very lucky to be following behind **Barry Bowden and John Morran** and the commodores and boards before them, who have paved the way for another excellent year. Thanks to their leadership, AYC is in a solid financial position that is allowing us to continue to work our way through a list of much-needed capital improvement projects while still maintaining the reserves to fund ongoing improvements and replacements in the future. The 2016 Board-elect has already met with the 2015 Board and the Long Range Planning Committee to plan and prioritize activities for 2016, and we are ready for a great year. Of course, we are open to input and suggestions. This is your club – let us know what you are thinking. And, even more importantly, there will continue to be many volunteer needs – race committee, regatta chairmanship, buildings and grounds activities, sail training, social committee, scoring help, IT support, and much more. I can tell you from direct experience that getting involved as a volunteer is one of the best ways to get to know people and enjoy the Club. And the Club absolutely relies on the willingness of our members to step up and help with these activities. It's what allows us to continue to keep AYC an affordable and excellent place to sail and socialize. Please reach out to any board member or **Jackie** to see how you can get involved.

Enjoy the rest of 2015 and I hope to see you all at the New Year's Eve Party as well as Red Eye Regatta!

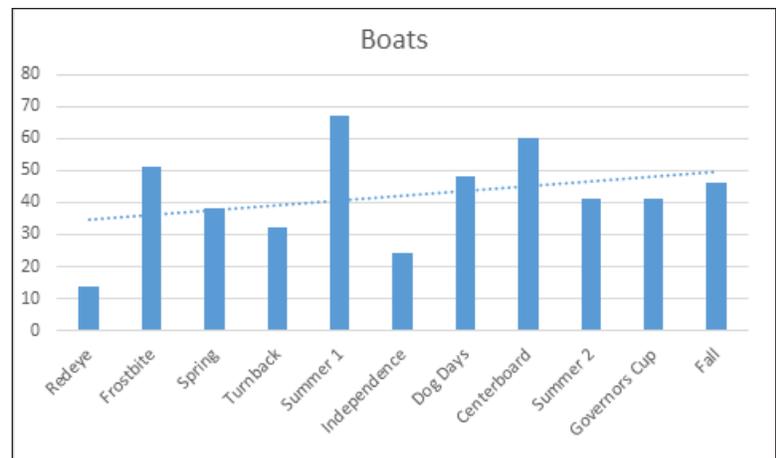
Race Commander Report

by Ed Taylor



1st, 2nd and 3rd place flags have been presented to each Series class. A few have still not been picked up. Some class winners flew their flags throughout the year while showing our sailor's achievements. Maybe next year we will try a different award?

The 2016 Race Calendar is currently being developed as dates are being announced by the 1st of January. Dates will be confirmed and submitted for approval to the Board.



continued next page

The 2016 Permanent Race Committee (PRC) representatives are still being chosen to assist the Race Commander and PRO's. After losing a few members throughout the year, we have gained some new members and some existing members will continue with their duties. Any volunteers should contact the Race Commander if interested in learning more about being part of the Race Committee team

The Racing Rules of Sailing and Race Committee seminars have been well attended and showed lots of interest while the quality and enjoyment of racing should be improved. We plan on continuing the training with our popular instructors.

Friday Night Beer Can Races start and finish continue between the two outer club buoys. Summer finishes take an estimated one hour and fifteen minutes depending on when you start on the line. The dinner volunteers have been outstanding.

Race Logistics

The iPad iYachtCalc and scoring programs have had some great success. Training has been completed on the use of the app for a day of Race Committee while mostly providing fast and accurate results.

A review of all Race Committee boats maintenance and equipment continues with repairs and purchases trying to be completed before the end of year.

Harbor Report

by Wade Bingaman



TWO YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS (My Adventures as Harbor Master)

I am completing my two year stint as Harbor Master and have been recalling, as best I can, what has happened. I began with minimal knowledge of the job which is probably why I agreed to do it. However the outgoing HM, **Jon Nash** kindly gave me a crash course, and then I was off and running. A lot of thanks goes

to **Vic Manning** and **John Saunders** who foolishly agreed to mentor me by being on Harbor Committee that first year. Here's a list of what went on:

We made significant improvements in our docks.

- Four new board boat docks replaced some truly awful old ones on the Junior Pavilion.
- A new keel boat Dock 5 replaced the out-dated pipe dock. This completed the change-over to our new integrated dock system.
- We've added swim ladders and safety stations to our keel boat docks.
- We added a new access bridges to the Race Committee dock and the Junior Pavilion.
- We reorganized and re-numbered the board boat docks.

We were able to organize our boat parking on the beach. Fortunately we had made a lot of progress on this before the quickly rising lake level forced us to complete the job. Thanks to **Vic Manning** and **Tom Cunningham** for leading the midnight team that made the final sweep of boats before the lake claimed them.

We had the south cove cleaned of trees before the lake rise. Juniors and other board boat sailors can thank **John Saunders**. It was his suggestion and a good one.

We tightened the monitoring of use of our launch ramp by non-members. This has resulted in the Club actually gaining some income from this use.

We more closely kept up with wet slip and dry slip use. This also has resulted in an increase in important income to the Club.

We put in place some requirements for use of boat lift cranes on Club grounds. This was to improve safety and to limit liability to the Club.

I would also like to take credit for the lake being almost full again. But we did survive the moving of the docks from the lowest level anyone can remember to our present situation.

My major regret is that we were not able to complete instillation of the new stairways to the keelboat docks. The changing lake levels and design ideas have caused this project to be delayed more that I would have liked. However when finally finished, it will be a significant improvement. Next year in addition to the stairs, we are looking forward to the replacement of even more of our old board boat docks.

All in all it was an eventful two years. I had great support from our club staff – **Jackie, Kate, and Tom**. Many club members were also willing to assist with their labor and ideas. **Joe Roddy**, our new Harbor Master, will take it from here.

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

The entry gate to AYC has slowed down. The new entry gate operation system has a *soft starter*. Soft starter technology controls the acceleration of the electric motor by means of controlling the applied voltage. The soft starter reduces the starting current and thereby avoids voltage drops in the network and reduces the starting torque and mechanical stress on the equipment. This technology results in reduced need for service and maintenance. The motor acceleration is controlled smoothly; therefore, reducing mechanical shock and damage to fragile material on the conveyor belts. What does this mean for YOU???

The gate slowly starts to open and then speeds up.
The gate slowly starts to close and then speeds up.

Notes from Your GM

by Jackie Wheelless

The biggest change for me this year was that Lake Travis climbed 32.5 feet in less than a week's time. To see the cove outside my office fill up with water and boat docks was a thrilling experience.

The 2015 Board of Directors are a very special group of leaders. I'm inspired watching them work together and carry forward with the business of the club. **Immediate Past Commodore John Morran, Secretary Chris Ehlers and Sail Training Commander Eric Rochar**d are sailing off of the Board in 2016.

John, it's been such a delight working with you on the Membership Committee and deciphering the effective dates for resignations and what the probationary requirements are and what counts towards what. THANK YOU for interpreting the probationary requirements AND composing an easy to understand and follow document!!

Chris, you've done such a bang up job of compiling the monthly meeting agendas and putting them in my hand so that all I have to do is to print and distribute them. THANK YOU!

Eric, you've been so busy with your 9-5ish job this year that I really hope you have some extra time now to relax and put your feet up!!

What has **Tom Cunningham** been doing this year??? Let's see, moving docks, oh and moving docks and wait, did I mention moving docks?? Not to mention fighting with woodpeckers and then fighting algae in the pool and moving docks.

This year introduced regatta registration via the AYC website! A tremendous amount of time and effort by **Kate Noble, Chris Thompson, Steve Pervier and John Grzinich** has made MY life much easier and I hope yours too!

Last year we promised to have ASA registration up and running on the AYC website also. Again, THANK YOU to **Kate Noble** for doing a bang up job on this task!!

Thanks to **John and Carolyn Howard**, the paper storage in the office has been drastically reduced! **John and Carolyn** spent many, many hours scanning and storing files electronically!

Bonnie Lackey supplied AYC with new number plates for the board boat docks.

Probationary members stepped into the kitchen to prepare Series Meals while the Social Committee went on hiatus. **Susy Ortega**, Associate Member Bill Fowler's daughter, has not only single-handedly prepared spaghetti dinner, she has graciously accepted the task of Social Committee Chairperson for 2016. She desperately needs volunteers to sign up to be on her committee. THANK YOU, SUSY!! Please sign up soon so she can start forming her committee!!

Our Chubb Insurance Property & Casualty Risk Engineer walked the property this past summer. She sent us a list of recommendations (improve ramps and docks, swim ladders on the docks, 911 telephone at the pool). The 2015 Board has done an outstanding job of

implementing all of these recommendations.

The overhaul of the cabins resulted in a 35% increase in cabin income for 2015 compared to 2014. In March we changed our porta pot contract from United Site Services to Blue Chem Services (thank you to **Steve Frick** for referring me to them!!) and recognized a savings of \$215 per month. Also, in April we changed our trash and recycling service from Waste Management to Texas Disposal Service for a savings of \$550 per month.

Gift Ideas ... Thanks to **Bruce McDonald**, we now have an assortment of sizes in the polo shirts, fleece vests and jackets and soft shell jackets. Come do your Christmas shopping!! Also, **Kate** has designed some great AYC logo bumper stickers for \$1 each. There are also some \$2 hat keepers left over from Governor's Cup.

Coming to you in 2016: Regatta Chair Manual (didn't get completed in 2015)

WELCOME DECEMBER NEW MEMBER!



Photo Jackie Wheelless

New Junior Member Elie Ortiz with Mother Andrea Garcia

Sailing Director Report

by Kate Noble



It's hard to believe another year has come and gone at AYC! As 2015 comes to a close, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of such a special Club. The outstanding volunteer spirit of AYC members is what makes things happen around here. It's been a real pleasure to work with you all to provide our members and the community with training opportunities. The teamwork, support, and enthusiasm of the membership builds the foundation upon which we can continue to grow and better our Club; so thank you all for a great 2015 Sail Training season!

2015 Highlights

- 53 individuals participated in at least one out of three seasons of the 2015 Junior Sailing Program which provides weekly training sessions for Opti, Laser, and FJ sailors (almost!) year-round. An additional 134 youth sailors came through our summer Junior Sailing Camp and PB&J Summer Sailing Series.
- We hired new **Assistant Coach Coleman Terrell**, an outstanding addition to both our Junior Sailing Program as well as adult training. Thank you, Coleman, for sharing your talents and for all your contributions to Sail Training over the past six months! It's been a pleasure working with you and I am so glad you're a part of the AYC team.
- Austin Yacht Club is now home to some of the best junior sailors in the state of Texas with Roadrunners at the top of their fleets regionally, nationally and beyond. This phenomenal group of young sailors are well known for their sportsmanship and teamwork out on the road. I am so proud that our Club is being so well represented and that our Roadrunners are gaining recognition. Thank you to all of their parents and supporters who make it all possible!
- The new Adult FJ Training Series rolled out this year providing adults with a series of four progressive lessons. This new structure has been very successful and we will continue to offer in 2016! Beginner sessions were offered in May, August, and September and our first intermediate session was held in November/December.
- Outreach events were coordinated with local non-profits Explore Austin, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas, and the Round Rock Kiwanis.
- Updates to equipment and facilities increased the functionality and safety of our program, especially our new Zodiac Pro 500 RIB, complete with new floating dock, bimini and cover (thank you to the **AYC Fund** and **Bartlett Sails** for their contributions!)

Thank you to the **2015 Board of Directors**, **Sail Training Commander Eric Rochard**, the **Sail Training Committee**, and the many AYC members who volunteered their time, boats and expertise to help out with our clinics and other programs. I look forward to teaming up with **2016 Sail Training Commander Bill Records** once again next year.

If you have a suggestion on a clinic or training program you'd like to see next year, please let me know! You can reach me at kate@austinyachtclub.net, (512) 266-1336, or swing by the office. I welcome your feedback and ideas on how Sail Training can better serve the membership in 2016.

Roadrunner Fleet Update

by Stefan Froelich



Team Racing

Lakewood YC, January 16-17

Want to compete in the MidWinters Optimist Team Racing Regatta in Houston? Contact Sportsmanship Chair Jeff Brock at brock@alum.mit.edu and express your interest. He will give you the scoop.

Roadrunner Fleet 2016

The purpose of the Roadrunner Fleet is to promote youth sailing and racing at Austin Yacht Club and beyond, to support the AYC Sail Training Program as requested, to promote good sportsmanship and good manners, and to provide support for sailors at sailing events at away events. Any parent of a Junior Member of the Austin Yacht Club or any member of Austin Yacht Club, who is current with the payment of membership dues to AYC, is eligible for membership in the Roadrunner Fleet upon payment of the required annual Fleet dues. Ownership of a boat is not required. 2015 has seen an expansion of the number of traveling racers. This success is due in large part to the volunteer Board. The Board for 2016 is as follows:

Fleet Captain	Stefan Froelich
Sportsmanship Chair	Jeff Brock
Treasurer	John Abrams
Secretary/Communications	Sarah Jayawant
Social Chair	Constanze Heitkoetter
Equipment Chair	Gus Tenrerrio
Safety Chair	Paul Carew
Membership Chair	Elisha Krempetz

Wild Turkey Regatta



Photos Bruce McDonald



continued next page



Photos Bruce McDonald



2015 Perpetual Awards

JIMMY B. CARD MEMORIAL TROPHY

To the Club sailor, new to the sport. This trophy is to recognize the beginning sailor who enthusiastically, bravely and with a real zest and enjoyment for life becomes a reasonably competitive sailor in their first or second year of sailing.

Award History: **Jimmy Bradford Card** was a student manager for the University of Texas basketball team. After he left UT, he was a co-owner of Bradford Paint Co. and later, Country Store Gallery, both of which were or currently are art galleries. Jimmy sailed a Lightening at AYC. Everyone who met Jimmy liked him – he was a real “people person”. He had a great sense of humor, which, according to his widow **Bette**, he never lost even during his five-year battle with leukemia that he lost in 1963. The trophy is in memory of an enthusiastic sailor and a good man.

Congratulations, Amanda Casey!



Amanda Casey moved to Austin from Colorado in February 2015 and, though she had very little training experience, jumped into the sport with both feet. By March 2015, she had joined AYC, purchased a J24 (not a beginner’s boat!), put together a crew that has proven loyal, and was sailing and racing. Amanda was a young woman with a mission and a drive to learn everything about sailing she could and to become a competitive sailor. Since February, she has raced in most AYC sailing events AND has participated in all J24 circuit stops. She is currently in the top ten in the J24 circuit. An example of Amanda’s determination and enthusiasm for sailing was the J24 circuit stop, for which she had no crew. So, undaunted and determined, she pulled and transported the boat by herself, and when she got to Houston, she set up the boat and found a crew, practiced, and sailed the race. While Amanda and her crew did well, another boat, on starboard tack protested Amanda, who was on port tack. Amanda lost the protest, but she knew the rules, knew she was right, and requested a formal protest hearing. After a 2.5 hour protest, Amanda emerged the winner. She knew the rules and stood her ground. Amanda has enthusiastically, bravely, and with a real zest for and enjoyment of life, become a competitive

sailor and is on her way to becoming a sail racing force to be reckoned with.

MAX WHITE MEMORIAL TROPHY

To the Club senior member for outstanding service to the Club in the past year. This trophy should be awarded to the individual who has given freely and unselfishly of their time and/or talents over and above what might otherwise have been necessary or expected of them.

Award History: **Max White** was the **Hap McCollum** predecessor at AYC, always spending his time maintaining and improving the Club facilities. He loved to do it and the Club is better off for his significant services.

Congratulations, Scott Young!



Scott Young has been a member of AYC for many years. During his years of dedicated service to the Club (to which his service continues) he has changed the face of the Club. His sailing talent and skills are legendary at AYC; to mention just two of his accomplishments that bookend his sailing career, he won the Mallory Cup more than any other sailor in the U.S. and Scott has established the annual Fleet Challenge and continues to be the driving force behind it. The fleet challenge showcases sailing skill and prowess of our members as well as allows a forum for great boasting and “negotiating.” This accomplishment has led to the AYC Fund surpassing its goals and helping fund the sailor director position for several years, sail training RIB purchase, and new sails for the FJ Fleet. Scott has assisted in providing several of the Club’s FJs that have been used by the UT Sailing team and the Club for many events and he continues to train young and old alike in the fine art of sailing. Scott is indeed deserving of the Max White Memorial Trophy perpetual award.

continued next page

JESSIE MCILROY SMITH BOWL

To the Club junior or senior sailor who has made an outstanding contribution of achievement in yachting beyond the Club level or normal Club activities. This award is intended to recognize a Club member for outstanding service to yachting or racing achievement beyond the Club level or to recognize an individual's accomplishments that are not within the normal scheduled activities of the Austin Yacht Club such as significant application of sailing skills in a rescue, ocean crossing, yacht construction, etc.

Award History: **J. Lewis Smith III** was an active sailor at AYC before his untimely death in 1971 at the age of 31. His mother, **Jessie McIlroy Smith** had worked many hours in Club events to help her son participate in competitive sailing and she donated the trophy to help keep Lewis in the Club's memory as an active and racing sailor.

Congratulations, Ethan Froelich!



Ethan Froelich has been sailing since 2011, after mastering how to windsurf. He raced all 30 Texas Sailing Association events in Texas these last two years, finishing 7th in 2015 in a field of 100+ sailors. He raced in four National regattas placing 5th at the Texas Youth Race Week Junior Olympic Festival and 53rd of 300+ at US Nationals in Pensacola. At the US Team Trials regatta in Miami, he qualified for Team USA Belgium where eleven countries were represented and placing 5th in Silver and 5th of Team USA earning the Wave Master Award for his efforts. Locally, he has earned top results in the major AYC regattas skippering FJs, the Prindle, and earned his first J22 bullet as the driver and tactician during a series race. He has already double qualified for 2016 US Team Trials. He is the sailor who leads by example – always at practice, first to help his teammates rig, ready to pass on his expertise to those newer or less experienced, meets setbacks with resolve on the water, and with integrity which is required in his sport. He has volunteered as a PB&J coach and operates a boat cleaning business to offset regatta fees. His first ever sailing award was the Future Olympian award from summer camp. Watch out, it may really happen!

CORINTHIAN WOMAN SAILOR TROPHY

To a woman sailor exhibiting traditional Corinthian traits. This trophy is to be given annually to a woman who has exhibited good sportsmanship, enthusiasm and participation, thereby making an overall contribution to the enhancement of the sport of competitive sailing.

Award History: AYC sponsored a women's sailing camp in the late 1970s and that camp was the impetus of what became an active women's sailing contingent at the Club who wanted to skipper their own boats instead of crewing for the men. Beginning in 1979, AYC produced seven winners of the TSA Adams Cup trophy over a span of 15 years, and each of these teams went on to become national competitors. Since there was no Perpetual Award at AYC that honored women sailors in their own right, this merry band of women sailors established the Corinthian Woman Sailor Trophy to recognize competitive, enthusiastic, and sportsmanlike women sailors. The women fashioned a trophy themselves and it was first presented at the annual awards banquet in 1981.

Congratulations, Renee Ruais!



Renee Ruais is a quiet wizard with a big heart at AYC. She single-handedly brought the J22 fleet back from the dead after it floundered in the late 90s. The fleet, currently with 18 boats, is robust and thriving, thanks primarily to Renee. She is an excellent sailor, winning many races and regattas and coming in second or third on the others. In addition to her competitive participation on the water, Renee has served on the board and serves the Club in her many volunteer activities. She coaches new sailors, she sponsors the junior races, she is a volunteer at Big Brother Big Sister sailing events, she assists and provides her expertise at all women's clinics, and she helps with Wednesday Night Sunfish Laser events. And, with her clever sense of humor and an appropriate amount of irreverence, she is a joy to be around. We are honored to present Renee with the AYC Corinthian Woman Sailor perpetual award.

continued next page

Perpetual Awards

Liz Bauman Memorial Trophy

To the most improved female junior sailor. This trophy is to be given annually to a young woman who, though not necessarily the most accomplished, demonstrates those traits of cooperation, discipline, willingness to learn, and good sportsmanship that are the goals of the junior sailing program.

Award History: **Liz Bauman** was the daughter of AYC sailors **Sandy and Marilyn Bauman**, who sailed Thistles and later a Cal 20 ("The Great Pumpkin"). Although Liz didn't skipper the boats, she was an enthusiastic junior sailor and spent much time crewing for her father. In her early college years, she developed a brain tumor and died an untimely death. Even when Liz was using a wheelchair, she continued to sail as much as she could. This trophy was established by Sandy (d. December 2013) and Marilyn to memorialize Liz and her love of sailing.

Congratulations, Fiona Froelich!



Fiona Froelich is the smiling face and team cheerleader for the AYC youth program. Not only does she race the AYC events in Optimists, FJs, and keel boats, she ranked as the 5th female in the state of Texas for 2015 having sailed in all 15 regattas. Passionate about sailing, she studies tactics, watches videos, and knows her competition. She is ready to help hand out trophies, and to volunteer around the Club. Of all the girls on the junior team Fiona is the most determined. She has steadily improved all year and her commitment is unmatched.

RON W. HARDEN MEMORIAL TROPHY

To the most improved male junior sailor. This trophy is to be given annually to a young man who, though not necessarily the most accomplished, demonstrates those traits of cooperation, discipline, willingness to learn, and good sportsmanship that are the goals of the junior sailing program.

Award History: **Ron Harden** (d. 2000) was an excellent sailor, one of the first to own and race a J24 at AYC. He loved the sport and was passionate about kid's sailing. Ron was completely committed to competitive junior sailing and racing and he was often seen coaching kids on the water, giving particular attention to those juniors who weren't the best of the best, empowering young sailors to reach beyond what they thought were their limits. This trophy memorializes Ron and his love, enthusiasm, and support of junior sailing.

Congratulations, Ben Froelich!



Ben Froelich is a dedicated Laser sailor completing over 30 state and national regattas the last two years. While he continues to progress and move up in scoring on the circuit, finishing the 2015 season with an overall 3rd in the state for laser radial, it is his character that sets Ben apart as a candidate for this award. Acting as a "big brother" to the entire junior race team, Ben sets a high standard as a role model of kindness, helpfulness and good sportsmanship. He is never without a cheerful spirit and his style of quiet confident leadership has earned him the deep trust and respect of his teammates and their families. Additionally, he earned his US Sailing Level I certification, volunteered 3 weeks as an AYC summer camp counselor and with the PB&J program, and was recently awarded the Texas Sailing Association Friendship Award, voted on by his peers and state coaches.

continued next page

OL' SALT OF THE AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

To the club senior sailor who has exhibited enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and a competitive zeal over a period of time, and has a quality of life that can be admired by all.

Award History: Here's the Wikipedia version: An "old salt" in the English-speaking naval services is often a raconteur, or teller of sea stories. Much of the history and traditions of the naval services are passed from generation to generation of service members by these sea stories as told and retold by old salts. Sea stories may be truthful, half-truths, or falsehoods. However, they always enhance the reputations of naval and Marine units, or individuals. (Is this the real story? If you have a better one, email telltale@austinyachtclub.net.)

CONGRATULATIONS, JOHN SAUNDERS!



Since joining AYC in 1984, **John Saunders** has been active on the board, on committees, and in competitive racing. An accomplished sailor and racer when he joined AYC, John has been skilled and competitive in club events, garnering multiple first, second and third place awards in series races, single-handed races, and overnight races and regattas in his J22 and Wednesday night races in his Sunfish. When not sailing, John was often found on race committee and, at times, up in the kitchen preparing grub for the tired sailors. He has served on the board as race commander and buildings and grounds commander. In his last tenure as B&G commander, John worked diligently to see that boats had access to the lake and the docks. He assisted with work on the point and he was resourceful in building ramps as the water level receded. Because of the drought during that time, he installed drought resistant landscaping and a drip irrigation system to make sure those plants and trees got a good start in spite of mother nature. In those years when he wasn't on the board, John served on many committees, but has always had a special fondness for buildings and grounds. A fact not known by many – John has for that last 20 years waged a one-man war with the prolific crop of poison ivy that grows on Club grounds. If you've never gotten poison ivy at the Club, thank John. Many of you know that John will always give you his opinion on just about any topic, but he is and always has been generous with his time and talents – sharing his sailing expertise with any who ask and some who don't, and always there to lend a hand. AYC holds a special place in John's heart. It's our pleasure to acknowledge him with the Ol' Salt of the AYC perpetual award.

BILL RECORDS ROADRUNNER FLEET TROPHY

To the Club member who has gone beyond expectations to serve and volunteer on behalf of the Roadrunner Fleet. This trophy is to be given to the Club member, who consistently, and over a long period of time, acts as a pivotal leader.

Award History: **Bill Records** is a long time Club member who has served on many committees and the board, races a Pearson 26, works hard to welcome new members, had the forethought to hire a staff coach, and finds every chance he can get to serve on behalf of the junior sailors. Without his extreme dedication, the junior program would not be what it is today. As a result, in 2014, the AYC Roadrunners proposed this trophy in Bill Records' name.

Congratulations, Julius, Markus and Constanze Heitkoetter!



Julius Heitkoetter is clearly the most improved junior sailor who constantly and mathematically calculates the chess game of sailing. His efforts reveal a major increase in performance, now 10th in his age group in the state for 2015. Never once has he said an angry word to another sailor, his coaches, the judges, or the race committee. This 2016 US Team Trial Qualifier truly has Corinthian Spirit and the most impressive character on the team. Not only is he an A+ student at school, the fastest 7th grader on the cross country team, and an accomplished cello player, his commitment to service around AYC is unmatched. He has volunteered at work days, made public speeches at AYC, submitted proposals to the board, and taught younger sailors new techniques. The Heitkoetter character does not stop there. His parents set the example with a long list of accomplishments to serve and to benefit the Club and its members. Their logistical and money saving efforts have resulted in many successful fundraisers, hundreds of homemade breakfast tacos and Markus burgers, and several homemade group dinners on Saturday evenings at the away events. They personally purchased and haul a coach boat for the junior program at the away regattas (over 7,500 miles in 2015). They are dedicated to doing this for the long run and have hugely expansive plans for 2016.

continued next page

Perpetual Awards

BLUE DUCK AWARD

The coveted Blue Duck trophy is presented each year to the Austin Yacht Club sailor who executes the biggest blooper, as nominated and voted by the AYC membership.

Award History: First awarded in 1968, this annual recognition remains a favorite. But why is it called the Blue Duck Award? Even Wikipedia doesn't know. If you know the actual history of this award, or if you have a better one, email telltale@austinyachtclub.net.)



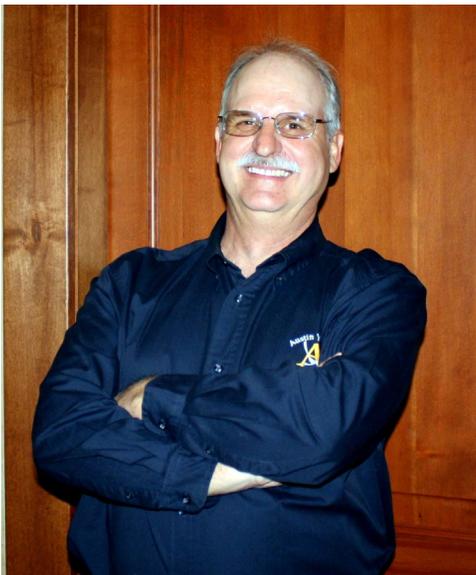
Congratulations, Brad Davis!

The Blue Duck award for this year became a contest between inexperience and long time expertise. Two newer members of the Austin Yacht Club were up against a long time Club member and distinguished race officer. In the end, as has happened many times at AYC, the advantage of having lots of years of experience outweighed the mistakes of newer members.

Ty Cunningham was nominated for the launching of his keel boat. Having not had the experience of multiple times doing this process, or maybe even the advantage of having watched others do this at least once or twice, he attempted the launch without a rope or cable attached to his trailer and launch vehicle. This resulted in the most likely thing that could happen, he managed to launch both his boat and his truck at the same time. Neither boat nor truck was permanently damaged.

The next nominee was **Charlie Pitkin**. Charlie was attending the party after the Turnback Canyon Regatta and was confronted with the combination of a lot of party, a lot of rain, and a conga line. This combination proved to be his undoing when the rain slicked concrete, and the partying, and the conga line resulted in cracked ribs and a nap on one of the picnic tables. Never be on the end of a conga line.

The eventual winner was a highly experienced member who came to AYC from the Rush Creek Yacht Club and has years of experience at high level race management. During the recent flood, the lake came up very quickly resulting in the area where his truck was parked being rapidly inundated and in danger of flooding the truck. He was blissfully sleeping on his yacht at the dock and despite many attempts by **Tom Cunningham, Ryan Harden, and Tom Lappin**, who were letting out cables on the dock, he was difficult to arouse. Their efforts finally paid off and the truck was saved.

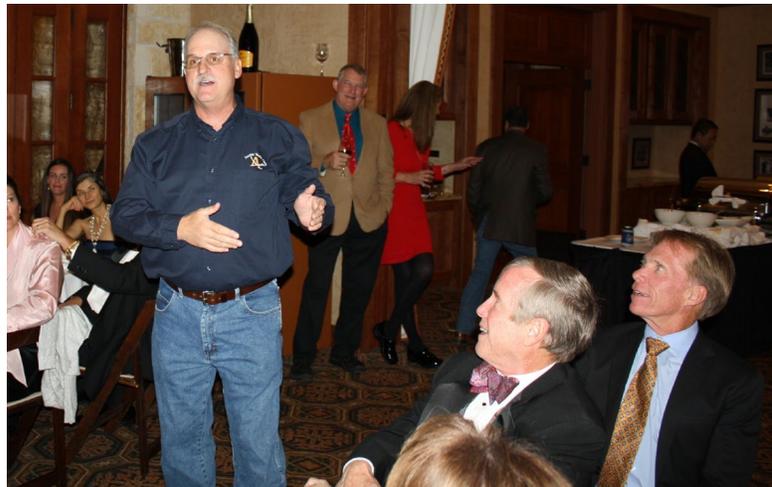


Photos by Cheryl Pervier



continued next page

Tom Cunningham relays the Blue Duck / Brad Davis saga to an astonished audience at the annual banquet.



Other AYC Banquet Awards

THE SCOTT YOUNG UT SAILING AWARD

The Scott Young Award is given annually to the University of Texas Sailing Team member voted by the Team for outstanding service. **Scott Young** has been a UT Team supporter since his graduation from UT in 1982. Scott was instrumental in arranging for the purchase of AYC's first fleet of 420s (8 boats) after which he worked tirelessly to get the UT Sailing Team accepted by AYC (no easy task) and integrated into AYC activities.

Award History: During his college years, Scott met **Al "Trip" Alan**, an avid sailor and AYC member who was active in the college sailing scene in Texas and helped run many events. Trip donated the trophy in 1988 to honor Scott and his ongoing support and encouragement of the UT Sailing Team. Scott has been one of the most enthusiastic and accomplished sailors at AYC, having won a multitude of national and international sailing championships; he won the Mallory Cup (U.S. Sailing Association Men's Championship) six times and qualified for the 2000 Olympic trials in the Soling class, and has won the AYC Easter Laser Regatta numbers times, just to name two of his accomplishments. Scott continues to support sailing and AYC, using his expertise both in sailing and in business to organize the AYC Fund, the Club's fund-raising non-profit corporation to support junior sailing at AYC. AYC has grown and flourished as a well-known sailing community, due in no small part to Scott's continuing generosity.

Congratulations, Ashlynd Epstein!



The Scott Young UT Sailing Team award went to the team's President, **Ashlynd Epstein**. Ashlynd has worked tirelessly this semester to keep the UT Sailing Team on track. This semester she has had to deal with so much from working with Rec. Sports to order new sails, dealing with last minute regatta scheduling changes, and team disciplinary issues, and she has handled all of it with a matter of composure and poise that I really admire. She has been excellent at keeping the team updated on all of the events of this semester and has tried to cultivate a real team camaraderie that I think will only help us in the future. She is always helpful to members, both new and old, and really makes everyone feel like they have a place on the team. She definitely deserves this award!

BERNSTEIN-BRINKMANN FLEET CHALLENGE TROPHY

Bernstein-Brinkmann Fleet Challenge Trophy is given to the fleet who fundraises the most money and sails the best at this one day annual event.

Award History: This trophy was donated by **Scott Young** in 2012 to honor **Gail and David Bernstein** for their continued generosity and **Johannes Brinkmann** for his efforts in the creation of the AYC Fund. David and Gail Bernstein had been active at AYC since the early 1980s, serving many positions on the AYC board over the years (Gail was Commodore at one point), teaching, and representing AYC in national championships and abroad as AYC ambassadors. In addition to being an accomplished sailor in his own right, Johannes served several years on the AYC board, including as Commodore, and has given freely of his time and talents to organize and to support the AYC Fund.

The annual AYC Fleet Challenge was "sort of a hail mary play" in 2012, since the AYC's primary fundraiser, the annual Governor's Cup Regatta, was drying up as the Lake Travis water level went down. Scott Young proposed the Fleet Challenge to take advantage of the FJ fleet, since those boats were on the docks and easy to launch. As Scott says of the first challenge event, "Everyone had a blast and it just took off from there." The Fleet Challenge remains a most beloved and boisterous event for AYC sailors and fleets.



Congratulations, Sunfish Fleet!

In 2015, this award went to the Sunfish Fleet sailed by **Ravi Subramanian and Ethan Froelich**. Thank you to the Sunfish fleet for your tremendous donations and the near perfect sailing record the day of the event.

continued next page

2015 Recognition Award Recipients

2015 BOARD MEMBERS

Commodore	Barry Bowden
Immediate Past Commodore	John Morran
Vice Commodore	Molly Lewis
Secretary	Chris Ehlers
Treasurer	John Howard
Race Commander	Ed Taylor
Harbor Commander	Wade Bingaman
Buildings & Grounds Commander	Doug Casey
Sail Training Commander	Eric Rochard

BIG JOBS

Digitizing Membership Records	John and Carolyn Howard
Scoring	Chris Thompson
Social Committee	Jackie Wheelless

SPECIAL EVENTS

RR Endless Summer/FJ Summer Series	Jeff Brock
RR Endless Summer/FJ Summer Series	Stefan Froelich
RR Endless Summer	Bill Records
RR Endless Summer	Charlie Pitkins
RR PRO Contributions	Jim Casto
PRO for RR Regatta/National Regatta	Vic Manning
Linda McDavitt Send-Off Party	Carolyn Wilsford
Fleet Challenge	Scott Young
Fleet Challenge	JoAnn Welles
Wednesday Night Races	Ed Hill
Wednesday Night Races	Charlie Arnold

REGATTA CHAIRS APPRECIATION

RR Regatta (Triple Chairs)	Heitkoettters, Jeff Brock, Stefan Froelich
Turnback Canyon Regatta (Co-chairs)	Molly Lewis, Steve Pervier
Centerboard Regatta (Co-chairs)	Vic Manning, Dane Ohe
Governor's Cup	James Wilsford
Wild Turkey Regatta	Claude Welles
Independence Cup Regatta	Bill Records
Red Eye Regatta	Jim Johnstone
Beer Can Races	Hector Lujan
Easter Laser Regatta	Fred Schroth
J70 Circuit Stop Regatta	Bruce McDonald

GENERAL APPRECIATION

Staff Award	Tom Cunningham
Staff Award	Kate Noble
Staff Award	Coleman Terrell
Help with Dock Moves	John Kuc
Fixing all the ST Boats	Fred Schroth

RACE COMMITTEE

Ed Taylor (Chair)	Chris Thompson (Scoring)
Vic Manning	Karen Bogisch
Jim Casto	Bill Records
Stefan Froelich	Charlie Pitkin
Danny Lien	Elliot Bray

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Jackie Wheelless (Chair)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Doug Casey (Chair)

HARBOR COMMITTEE

Wade Bingaman (Chair)
Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás
Bob Mathison

PB&J COACHES

Kate Noble
Bill Records
Coleman Terrell

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Linda McDavitt (Chair) Vic Manning
Bruce McDonald Brent Schwann

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

John Morran (Chair)
Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás J/24
Deborah Mathison J-22
Jeff Brock Juniors & New Members
Barbara Owens C-22
Jackie Wheelless Administrator
Kate Noble Junior Program
Vic Manning Centerboard, Keel Fleet
Harry Polly

SAIL TRAINING

Eric Rochard (Chair) Jeff Brock
Linda McDavitt Stefan Froelich
Jennifer Loehlin Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás
Kate Noble Mike Beuerlein
Bill Records Fred Ford
Harry Polly Phillippe Bettler
Gary Payne James Wilsford
Brent Schwann Jim Casto

continued next page

FINANCE COMMITTEE

John Howard (Chair)

AYC FUND BOARD

Johannes Brinkmann (Chair)
David Grogono Kelly Hawk
Debbie Rackley Bonnie Lackey
JoAnn Welles Scott Young

ROADRUNNER BOARD

Stefan Froelich (Chair) Meeta Kaur
Paul Carew Phillippe Bettler
Bill Records Jeff Brock
Constanze Heitkoetter

BURGEE CLUBHOUSE PROJECT

Mark O'Brien
Lawrence Case



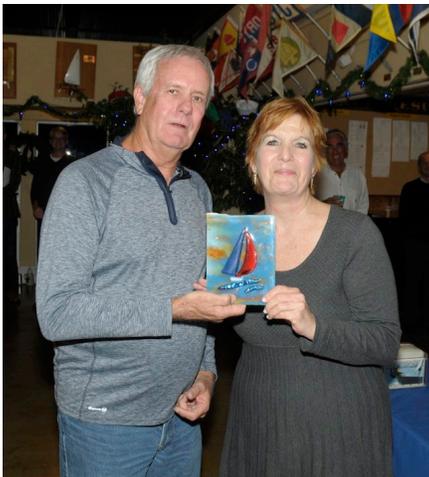
AWARDS COMMITTEE

Barry Bowden (Chair)
Candace Miller
Jan Thompson
Stephanie Froelich

**A SPECIAL THANKS FOR YOUR
VERY HARD WORK!**

2015 Recognition Award Photos

Photos by Bill Records



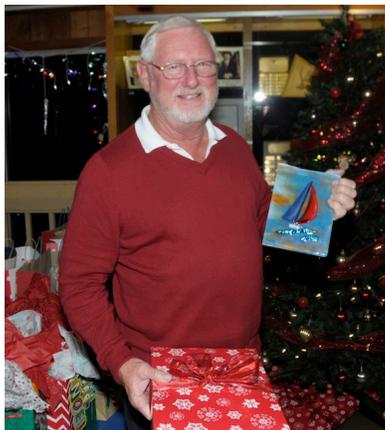
John Howard, Digitizing Membership Records
Jackie Wheelless, Social Committee



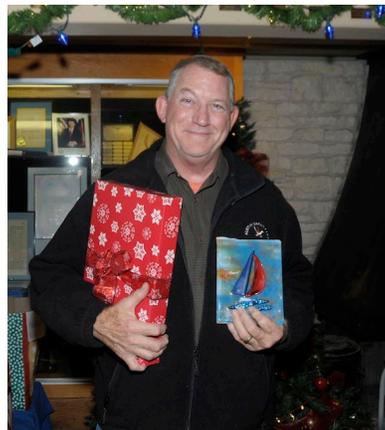
Chris Thompson, Scoring



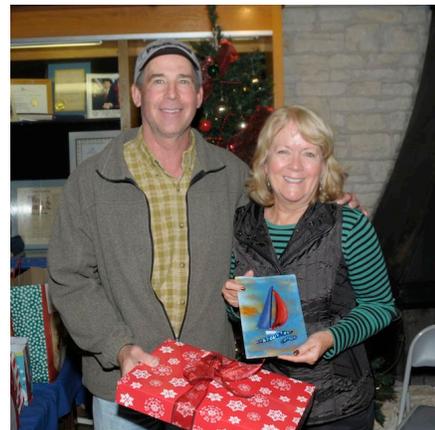
Stefan Froelich, Jeff Brock
RR Endless Summer/FJ Summer Series



Vic Manning, PRO RR Regatta/Natl Regatta



James Wilsford, Governor's Cup Regatta

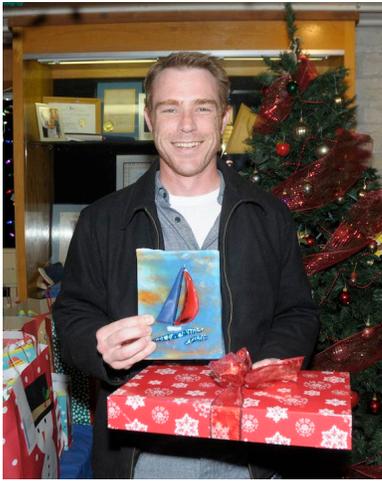


Scott Young, JoAnn Welles Fleet Challenge

continued next page

2015 Recognition Award Photos

Photos by Bill Records



Charlie Arnold, Wednesday Night Races



Jeff Brock, Constanze Heitkoetter, Stefan Frolich
Roadrunner Regatta



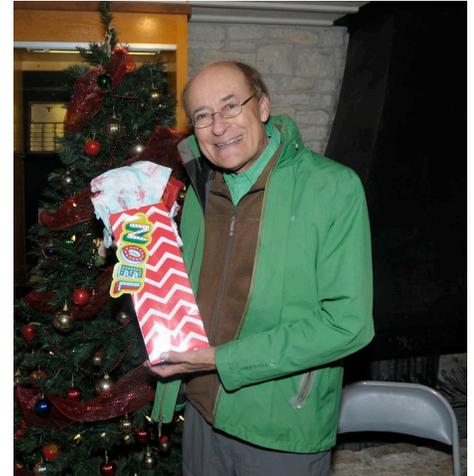
Steve Pervier, Molly Lewis
Turnback Canyon Regatta



Claude Welles, Wild Turkey Regatta



Vic Manning, Dan Ohe
Centerboard Regatta



Hector Lujan, Beer Can Races



Fred Schroth, Easter Laser Regatta



John Kuc, Tom Cunningham
Help with Dock Moves



Scott Young, JoAnn Welles, Johannes Brinkmann
AYC Fund

continued next page



Coleman Terrell, Kate Noble
Special Staff Recognition



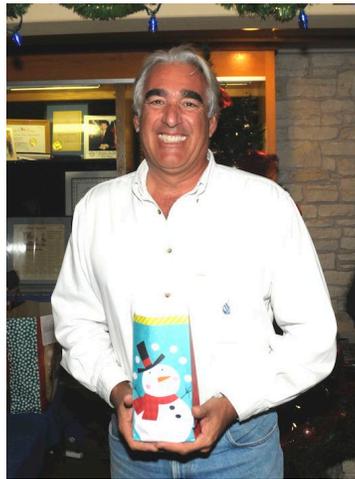
Race Committee



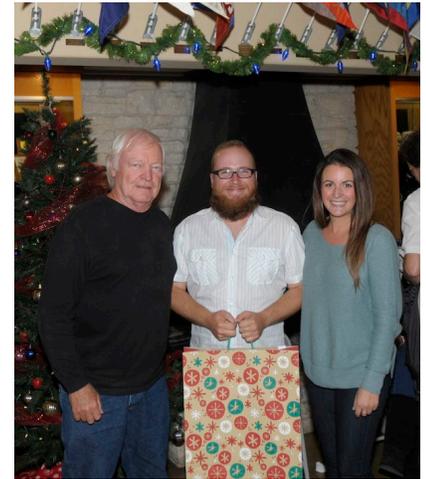
Bruce McDonald
J70 Circuit Stop



Bruce McDonald, Brent Schwann, Vic Manning
Long Range Planning Committee



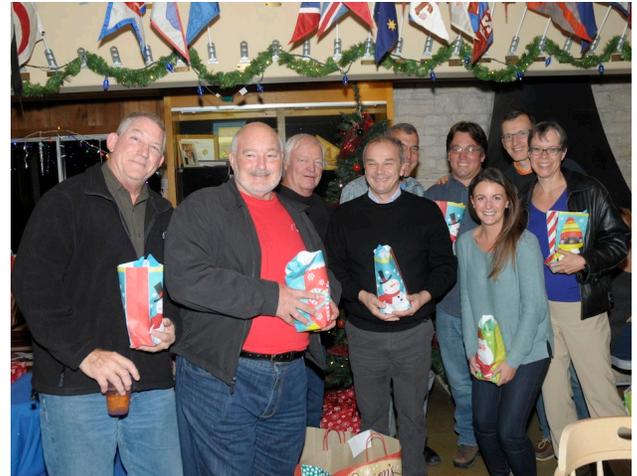
Doug Casey
Building & Grounds Committee



Bill Records, Coleman Terrell, Kate Noble
PB&J Coaches



Roadrunner Board



Sail Training Committee

Photos by Bill Records

continued next page

2015 Annual Banquet

Photos by Deborah Mathison



continued next page



continued next page

2015 Annual Banquet

Photos by Cheryl Pevier



continued next page



J/24 Fleet Update

by David Broadway

The ying and yang of tiebreakers. As has happened many times in the past, the competitive 2015 J/24 Texas Circuit Regatta came down to a several tiebreakers at this last stop Lake Canyon YC Texas Circus event. A strong cold front with winds steady in the mid-20 mph and powerful gusts in the high 40 mph range, racing was abandoned for Saturday. With a revised timeline for the racing on Sunday, the required minimum three races were completed to make it a keeper regatta. With a 2nd place finish, **Natalie Penner/Bob Harden's** Giggles team were tied in points for 1st place on the season with **James Freedman's** Miss Conduct, and finished in 2nd place for the season on the tiebreaker. They had a very successful 2015 campaign, including a stop at Berkeley CA for the J/24 US Nationals on San Francisco Bay and the J/24 North American Championship in Portland ME.

Going into the Circus stop, **John and Meiling Parkers'** ChupaCabra team was one point out of 5th place overall for the season. There were two levels of tie breaker involved to determine the overall season standings. For the Circus event, **Stu Juengst's** Vang Go team edged out **Tonja Sanchez Holmes'** Siren on a tiebreaker putting Vang Go in between the ChupaCabra 6th place and the Siren 8th place finishes. Hence with Stu's help, ChupaCabra moved into position to win the season tie breaker in edging out Siren for 5th place for the overall 2015 Circuit season! This was a stunning jump of five places from the ChupaCabra 2014 Circuit season finish and the largest gain of any boat participating on the 2015 Circuit!

With **Dave Broadway's** Superman team 5th place Circus finish, they earned 4th place overall for 2015. In the top five, the aforementioned AYC-based J/24s placed 2, 4, and 5, with all 7 AYC Road Warrior entries finishing in the top 10 for the 2015 J/24 Texas Circuit Regatta: Vang Go 7th, **Amanda Casey's** amazing Momentous 8th in her first year of J/24 ownership, **Chris Hammel's** Sforzando 9th, and the **Brandon Fury** led JB1 UT Sailing Club team in 10th. It was a very successful 2015 Circuit season for all seven AYC Road Warriors!

With the nearly full lake level, more local-only raced J/24s are likely to participate in 2016 AYC series racing. There is already a fleet buzz in anticipation of the 2016 J/24 Texas Circuit Regatta opener in March at AYC. With an anticipated 10-14 AYC entries and 20-25 total entries, this will likely be the largest turnout of the 2016 Circuit season! To start forming new team combinations and to gear up for the 2016 racing season, fleet captain **John Parker** has scheduled an informal J/24-J/22 regatta for December 27. Stay tuned for details!

Catalina 22 Fleet Update

by Steve Pervier

At year-end, most U.S. sailors are taking a holiday break during the long 'winterlude'. Some may be dreaming of charter getaways to warmer climes as they await the return of sailing season. But on Lake Travis, we usually have only a few days wait for a nice day to go sailing!

Following a fantastic AYC annual banquet and a fun Catalina fleet party – here are some calendar opportunities – December 27: a lighted boat parade at AYC, weather permitting! December 31: AYC's great New Year's Eve Party. January 1, 2016: Red Eye Regatta. January 7-10: Austin Boat Show. January 14: All-Catalina Fleet meeting.

Regarding CatFleet69.org, the All Catalina Fleet 69 and our AYC C22 Fleet 69 were one group about 20 years ago, and our memberships still overlap. We might still match up on sailing crew, race and cruise opportunities, charter vacations, and even a C22 coastal trailer trip in 2016.

For the new year we're hearing continued interest from both new and established C22 sailors, including some from outside AYC. We're looking for the return of long-time Catalina racers **Jon Fitch and Dane Ohe**. So we have a good chance to grow our participation from 2015's total of 10 active C22s in two major regattas and three racing series.

If you're visiting this C22 column and not a boat owner, a few of our local boats are for sale – could there be a C22 in your future? It won't be long until Frostbite Series begins! Feel free to contact me for information.

I'll get to be Fleet Captain again next year, so I want to both thank all C22 members for your support in 2015, and ask for it again in 2016. I appreciate your help on RC, plus your comments and input, and especially your presence on the race course. Let's get together and discuss all things C22 and sailing. Send me an email when you get a moment. See you on the water!

NEED A NEW MEMBER CARD?

If you've lost your AYC member card or your current card has expired, please contact Jackie Wheelless at gm@austinyachtclub.net. The FINAL order will be placed on December 30. **Please note:** Member cards will be automatically ordered for all new AYC members (except for Juniors) who have joined AYC since June 2015.

TELLTALE DELIVERY OPTIONS

Are you receiving a mailed Telltale but would be just as happy reading the electronic version via the website? The electronic version is in full color and it's available at least a week sooner than the printed version! If you would like to opt out of the mailed version, please email Jackie Wheelless at gm@austinyachtclub.net and ask to be taken off the mailing list.

Ensign Fleet Update

by Elliot Bray

The number of Ensigns participating in the Governor's Cup Regatta was not great but the quantity of fleet participation was made up for by the quality. **George Dahmen** did his usual fine job and tied **John Grzinich** for first place in B-Fleet

November racing was filled mainly with the Fall Series (with the usual drifters thrown in). **George Dahmen, Bill Hawk, Tom Groll, Randolph Bertin, Lewis Price, Elliott Bray, and David Gamble** participated.

Fall #1 was relatively light but filled in enough to get two good long races in.

The Ensign Fleet had Race Committee for Fall #2. The day started out sunny day with a northerly light wind that went a little more east as the wind built



Photo David Morley

as the day went on. Race 1 had the weather pin up toward the north shore, about 1/2 mile north of #6 and the leeward mark close to #5.

The course was rotated for Race 2 and the weather leg shortened to almost #6. Great day!!

Fall #3 saw only one race, 3 boats with **Randolph** the winner followed by **George and Lewis**.

Other News

Due to conditions on Lake Travis, the Austin Ensign Fleet has not been able to take it's turn at hosting the Region 4 Regional Regatta for the last several years.

First a little education: The Ensign Class has over 2,000 boats in 52 fleets spread across 18 states, and 52 cities. The country is divided into four regions for administration of these fleets. (see <http://www.ensignclass.com/regions-and-fleets/regional-fleet-listing> for further information)

- Region 1 is the East coast north of Florida to Stratford, CT.
- The combined Regions 2 and 3 are the East coast from Milford, CT to Maine

- Region 4 (our region) is the entire coast of Florida, the Gulf coast north to include Tennessee and Arkansas, and ALL states west of the Mississippi
- Region 5 is the Great Lakes, south to include Kentucky and Missouri, and west to the Mississippi.

The local Ensign Fleet 30 has volunteered to host the 2016 Regional Regatta here on Lake Travis and we have scheduled it for June 15-18, 2016. The Ensign Class Association will begin publicizing it soon after the new year when the new AYC Board officially puts it on the calendar.

We are all looking forward to a great regatta.

Other News

The local Ensign Fleet 30 will hold it's annual meeting at AYC Saturday, January 16, 2016.

J70 Fleet Update

by Bruce McDonald

AYC Wins Southwestern J70 Championship for Third Year in a Row



The team of Bruce McDonald, Seth Cunningham, Bob Leonard and Nicolas Derville captured the Southwest Championship against 14 teams. The perpetual trophy shall reside in the AYC trophy case until further notice.

INDEPENDENCE CUP BILLING

Due to a paperwork glitch, billing for Independence Cup Regatta will appear on participants' December 31 billing statement. Keel Fleet apologizes for any inconvenience!

NO MORE QUICKBOOKS BILLING SOLUTIONS

Please note that QuickBooks has discontinued use of the Billing Solutions link to pay your monthly billing statement online. Please contact **Jackie Wheelless** at gm@austinyachtclub.net if you need to set up a credit card for Automatic Payment.

C Fleet Update

by Bill Records

This years Wild Turkey Regatta was a huge success for C fleet. The weather was perfect, 65 degrees, N/NW wind 6-10 knts. C fleet was the largest fleet by far with 16 boats racing!

We had so many boats that we were divided into two separate classes (C & D). The competition was really good. In D class, **Doichin Tzolov** (San Juan 24, "Lemon Jello") and **Mack Warner** (Ranger 23TM, "Warley") duked it out with **George Dahmen** (Ensign). George took 1st, Doichin 2nd, and Mack 3rd by 12 seconds! In C class, I found myself boatless (bottom job) so **Dave Pendleton** let me charter his boat, "Broken Arrow" for the race. We had a great day flying his new **Bartlett** Spinnaker, taking 1st. **Wade Bingaman**



sailed "Rising Moon"(Cat 30) to a solid 2nd place, pretty impressive since he needs a bottom job and sails with a 130 roller furling jib! **John Durfor** sailed "Blue Note"(Pearson 26) to 3rd place. The large turnout was due to the participation of new members (**Diane Covert, Jeff Avant, Roger Huth**) and old timers returning (**Patrick Caughey, Robert Bennett, Robert Anderson**). I think everyone had a great afternoon of sailing. As one of the Roadrunners said when asked why he races, "I like sailing around with my friends".

After the race, the Keel Fleet had its annual meeting to elect 2016 officers, set fleet splits, and establish handicap rules. The status quo was confirmed except for a small change to fleet splits. The division between B & C was altered to put the Catalina 27TM in C fleet.

This will be my last C fleet update and duty as C fleet Captain. **James Parsons** (Pearson 26, #237) was elected 2016 C fleet Captain. Please give him the great support that you gave me this year. I am proud to say that C fleet is now the most active keel fleet at AYC and am looking forward to an even better 2016! The next scheduled race is the Red Eye Regatta on January 1. The day begins with a "Bloody Mary" brunch followed by the race. Let's have a great turnout and "Sail around with our friends" !

Keel Fleet Update

by Chris Thompson

The Annual Banquet and Wild Turkey Regatta bring our 2015 Racing and Social season to a close. The New Year's Eve Party and Red Eye Regatta are only a few week away, however. Frostbite Series will follow soon thereafter.

The Annual Keel Fleet meeting saw a changeover of the board, with all

positions installing new officers, with a few appointments to Handicap Committee pending. Meeting minutes will be available on the web in the near future. **Fleet Captain Hector Lujan** commanded us through a great year of racing and socializing, highlighted by the filling of the lake to above seasonal norms. This contributed to a great turnout for the Beer Can Race/ Dinners, fleet regattas, and series races. The volunteer spirit at AYC is alive and strong every Friday from April through September so don't forget to do your turn when the Keel Fleet Captain gives you a call next spring!

The incoming board will be led by Past Commodore, **Bob Goldsmith** serving as Keel Fleet Captain. He will be assisted by **John Maddalozzo**, keeping a watch on the purse strings, and **Karen Bogisch** handling the fleet communications duties. **Keith Lackey** is A Fleet Captain, with newly minted members **John Thurston** managing B Fleet and **James (The Crew Man) Parsons** riding herd on C Fleet. We leave the Keel Handicap Fleet in most capable hands.

A most heartfelt and sincere thanks to the outgoing board, **Hector Lujan, Steve Vaughan, Claude Welles, Jim Johnstone, Bill Records and Bruce McDonald**. It has been my pleasure to serve the Keel Fleet over the last two years with this fine group. A super huge THANK YOU goes out to the retiring Handicap Committee members, **Bruce Uphaus and Bill Records** for their three year commitment. Volunteers like this are what makes AYC happen. New representatives for B and C fleet will be installed at the first Ratings committee meeting in January.



Crew of Air Supply: Tom Fuller, Alan Standard, Ed Taylor, Steve Vaughan

The Keel Fleet Championship was awarded to Air Supply (**Ed Taylor and crew**) with an 80% win percentage in the 20 qualifying races they sailed. A handful of sailors participated in enough races to qualify with **Claude Welles, Chris Hargett, Bill Records and John Durfor** grouped behind Ed with win percentages in the 60s. Details are on the web.

A summary of the Ratings Committee activity (it was a pretty slow year) is included below. A "master" AYC Boat/Ratings catalog is in the works that will include updated owners, boat names, PHRF ratings, current certificate status, etc. This will feed the on-the-water scoring system so that any AYC boat that shows up on the starting line should be in the system.

I put the new scoring system through its final testing during Fall Series and Wild Turkey. It worked beautifully and Wild Turkey results were

continued next page

checked and complete within the hour after returning to the dock. Anyone with a penchant for number crunching, data management and a little computer/web savvy is welcome to join the scoring team for next year. Reach out to myself or **Race Commander, Ed Taylor** if you would like to find out more before making a commitment.

The handicap racing rules for AYC events will be generally the same (Time on Time scoring) with the "9 second rule" (non-spinnaker correction) being well accepted among the handicap cruiser boats (B & C Fleet). The fleet splits only have one change, lowering the limit on C Fleet down to 192 to put the Catalina 27's back with the slower cruisers.

The Frequent Sailor Program provided Keel Fleet racers and meeting attendees the opportunity to win some raffle prizes. This year a total of ten \$20 gift certificates from West Marine, AYC, and the Sailboat Shop were available. The tickets were distributed to those present based on the number of qualifying events they participated in during 2015. The winners were drawn from the bowl by **Christina Wolfe** and awards went to **Bill Records, John Maddalozzo, Hector Lujan, Claude Welles, Ed Taylor, Justin Wolfe, Karen Bogisch, John Thurston, John Parker, and Steve Vaughan**. Congratulations!

While this is my last article under the Keel Fleet byline you are not rid of me yet. Building and Grounds awaits me; things to fix and projects to implement, so adieu unit next month!

2015 Keel Handicap Committee – Annual Report

Items covered at open meetings included:

1. Processed ratings requests/reviews for 14 different boats.
2. US Sailing PHRF station membership brought current.
3. Adopted Schell Regression calculation to assist in comparing ratings across similar boat specifications. Utilizes the primary design characteristics of the boat to determine a numerical PHRF. This provides another data point for comparison, especially for boats that do not have existing ratings. Works well for older designed/heavier boats; not so well for racers.
4. Creating a CURRENT master list for AYC PHRF ratings – work in progress to be continued; recommend integrating this with scoring to maintain the master list for the new iPad scoring app.
5. 9 seconds per mile spin/non spin arrangement – consensus is that this is working and NO change is prescribed.
6. Portsmouth to PHRF conversions for active AYC racing trimarans and multihulls (three boats) – AYC MH fleet uses an additional adjustment (-42) from standard conversion formula. PHRF committee to do only conversions, not re-ratings for multihulls.
7. The J70 rating was discussed and analyzed using 2014 US Sailing data – no change in rating recommended without data to show pronounced dis-advantage in all sailing conditions or substantial changes in US Sailing data from comparable stations.
8. Two boats new to AYC applied for rating certificates – these used existing AYC ratings for the boat type

9. Four existing AYC boats obtained certificates for boats with existing ratings that changed owners.

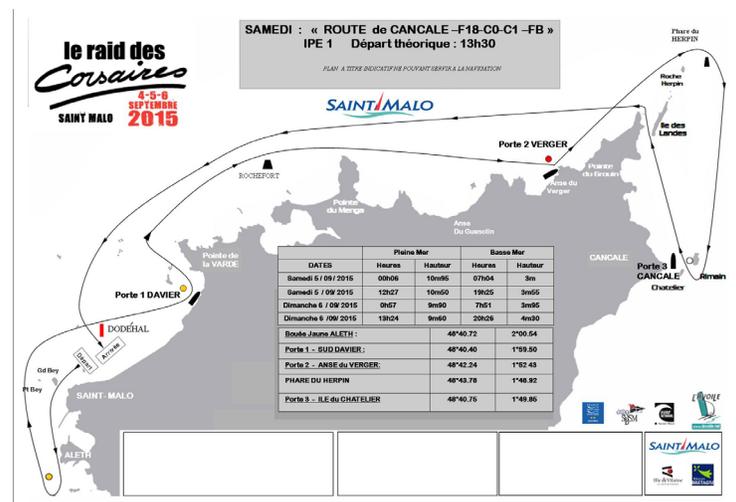
Three boats had new/significant rating adjustments:

1. **J/C Wolfe** – Schumacher 28 (96 to 102); this is a one of a kind racing boat- no PHRF ratings could be found; 96 was initial rating without any appreciable race data for comparison.
2. **K. Jolly** – Pearson Electra (252 to 258); rated and assigned to Ensign fleet although considerably slower; regression formula bore this out as well as the scant US Sailing data.
3. **Robert Bennett** – Pearson 27 – boat new to AYC ; Pearson 27 was not previously rated at AYC/Lake Travis, formula and USS ratings used to determine provisional rating of 210, comparable to P26/P260D.

Current (2015) members:

1. **Bruce Uphaus** – year 3 (J22/B Fleet)
2. **Bill Records** – year 3 (C Fleet)
3. **Chris Thompson** – Year 2 (C Fleet) – chairman
4. **Chris Hargett** – Year 2 (A Fleet)
5. **John Maddalozzo** – Year 1 (B Fleet)
6. **Justin Wolfe** – Year 1 (A Fleet)

Raid des Corsaires Part 2, Day 2 by Mike Beuerlein



That night the regatta meal is a fantastic fresh seafood paella with bountiful pitchers of French red wine as opposed to the burgers and beer I've grown accustomed to. The camaraderie too was identical but similarly at an extremely elevated level. Basille has noticed exactly how we are sailing (possibly due to the ramparts of St. Malo being an excellent vantage point to watch a race) and counsels me to be more mindful of the crush of boats sailing over us. He's right. I've been sailing as though I were the only boat on the course and picking where I'd want to be as though there weren't 50 other boats that didn't want to be in the exact same spot. Other than that, it's the usual banter and bonhomie.

continued next page

The next morning the wind is light and variable, so the first race around the bay is cancelled allowing us time to feast on fruit, yogurt, juice, banana bread, croissants, and strong coffee provided by the amazing race committee. Local volunteers very nearly outnumber the sailors and they are both competent and knowledgeable. There are numerous chase boats positioned all along the route denoting the limits to how close you can come to the rocks and they change their position constantly to reflect the tide. Eric and I get the boat down to the now rapidly expanding beach and I chat up the boat next to us, an Austrian couple sailing a Wildcat. We're all determined to improve our position in what everyone acknowledges to be an extremely competitive fleet.

With the morning's flood tide current at our backs, half the fleet were drawn over the line on the first start so we got another black flag. Again, we hung back and got what I would normally consider to be a great start but are mid-pack at the first mark. It is absolute chaos not being able to communicate with your crew in a start like this. If I were on starboard, I'd go as fast as I could but, when on port, I'd just have to listen to the tone of Eric's incomprehensibly French-speaking voice. If it were reasonably measured, I'd consider that to be "We can cross this guy"; if it seemed to get a little hysterical, that meant "We need to duck or tack". There were a few close calls and, in some cases, I'm glad I didn't understand some of the things yelled at us but, for the most part, we got through cleanly and fast. We set the spinnaker at the first mark and, mindful of Basille's advice, I was determined to be windward of any other boat. It worked, mostly. We move up through the pack on our way to Roche Gautrat but, this time, start from mid-fleet.



Fort-la-Latte-vu-du-Ciel

The sailing was absolutely heavenly but the competition was again hellish. We'd pass someone with an artful, seaman-like maneuver and they would inevitably try to sneak back past us on some lucky wind shift or lull. Those darn Frenchies just would not surrender! After a beautiful day of cat and mouse full-on double-trap sailing up to Fort la Latte and back, we nose in ahead of a few of our contemporaries and hit the beach with a semi-respectable time. Eric is surprised and elated I haven't trashed his boat. We were never able to carry on anything more than the most rudimentary conversation onboard but, because we both knew what to look for, we were mostly able to understand one another and both of us had a great time.

During the trophy presentation we ceremoniously exchanged yacht club burgees with the St. Malo yacht club as represented by the regional



was puzzled at the unusual interest in sailing until it finally hit me. While France prides itself on being a very advanced civilization, I realized with some pity that they had had to while away many centuries sailing as they waited for Americans to invent televised weekend football. Since the University of Texas was playing Notre Dame this particular weekend, I looked but I couldn't find any Notre Dame score updates, much less a



sailing chairman, a gentleman of great local esteem. Parking was impossible to find downtown as the entire St. Malo community turned out to watch and cheer the youths who'd sailed spinnaker-rigged Hobie 16's, the large F-18 class in which we had just managed to fight our way into the top 40% and the sizable Flying Phantom fleet. I

single statue of Knute Rockne, Vince Lombardi or Nick Saban. All I could find in the way of local heroes was this guy, Robert Surcouf, a scurrilous brigand.

The French, I deduced, are not particularly enamored with televised sports. They seem to much prefer to experience sports for themselves. This gentleman Surcouf had made a handsome living for himself and the community of exploiting his knowledge of the local waters

and his sailing skill. When the community's livelihood and, indeed very survival, depended on a thorough knowledge of local tides, currents, rocks and wind; it's no wonder that the town would erect a prominent statue of their most successful sailor, clearly visible from the water as you approach the castle, urging the locals to get out and sail. They did not appear to need much encouragement. The only wonder is that a tourist from Texas would think he could waltz in and beat them.

Linda McDavitt's Race Around the World by Doug Kern

Linda McDavitt is sailing around the world as part of the 2015-16 Clipper Race. On August 30, Linda and her ClipperTelemed+ teammates departed on a 40,000 mile journey across six continents. Here's an update from the Crew Diary, December 13. Don't forget to donate!



Race 4 – Day 11 Crew Diary Albany, Western Australia to Sydney 13 December

Being a Round-the-Worlder, I asked myself several questions before starting this journey. Since I am mainly a lake (small) sailor, the biggest one was would I be able to deal with being on one tack for a long period of time. I have discovered that yes

I CAN! In the three and a half months so far it has not been a problem. Mother Nature has kept me highly entertained.

Just the past few days I have watched the scene change from no wind to lots of wind, sunny skies to stormy weather, and rolling waves to "Perfect Storm" waves. I love seeing the water become hills and valleys. At times we are climbing up a hill and then seeing the valley (trough) form beside us as we go flying down it. The spray from the side of the boat then forms new shapes as the water changes from white foam to ice blue and then topped off with the wind blowing fine mist off the waves. Today Mother Nature is showing her strength and intensity as we sail along.

Yesterday the sail was going between storms. Every once in a while the sun would shine on us then clouds would form and always there was some light piercing through some area of clouds like a work of art. Actually like something one might see in a stained glass window in a chapel. At the end of our afternoon watch yesterday, it seemed as though the waters were settling down when Skipper Matt had us take down the kite and put up the Yankee 3. We were not sure why as we did not see a storm near us. About ten minutes later when the Aussie Watch was coming up, BOOM!, 60 knot winds hit. Thanks for knowing what was coming Matt.

Last night the stars were out in all their glory amid hits of lightening in the distance that was more like a giant flash on a camera going off than either jagged lightning or heat lightning that we have back in Texas. Then as I watch for shooting stars, I wonder how they are replenished or if one day there will not be a gazillion stars for others to see.

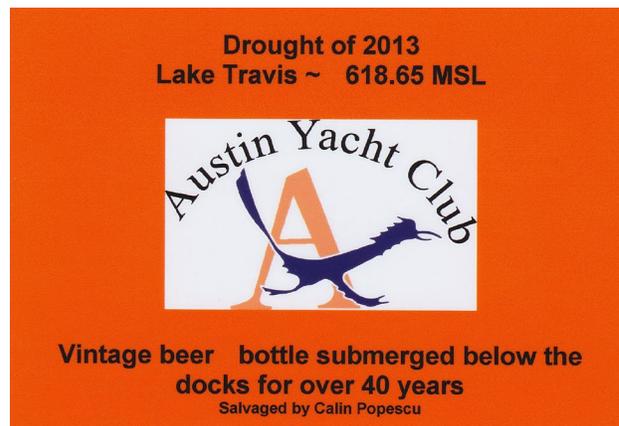
From the Albatross that greets us each day to the lone dolphin seen this morning to the hit of spray that covers us, I look forward to the next happening of the day. So, I have not been bored, as my imagination and curiosity is constantly going on what I see out in front of me in between evolutions (changes of sails, reefing, etc.). Life is GOOD!

It's Beer Bottle Time!

THE AYC LUCKY BEER BOTTLES DRAW - 2016

Only 122 beer bottles have been salvaged & labelled during the drought of 2013 on the AYC shores! (Lake Travis 618.65 MSL) You may be one of the three winners of \$100 at the 2016 AYC Opening Day Ceremony drawing if YOU:

- Are AYC member/staff,
- Are in attendance,
- Have the beer bottle with you (labeled drought of 2013) or you know the serial number,
- Have the bottle registered in your name at the AYC office (with Jackie Wheelless) prior the draw. Only one beer bottle for member).
- GOOD LUCK!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore	Barry Bowden
Past Commodore	John Morran
Vice Commodore	Molly Lewis
Secretary	Chris Ehlers
Treasurer	John Howard
Race Commander	Ed Taylor
Buildings & Grounds Cdr.	Doug Casey
Harbor Commander	Wade Bingaman
Sail Training Commander	Eric Rochard

AYC STAFF

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

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

5906 Beacon Drive
Austin, Texas 78734-1428

Office: 512-266-1336
Office FAX: 512-266-9804
Clubhouse: 512-266-1897

E-MAIL AND WEBSITE

www.austinyachtclub.net
office@austinyachtclub.net

NEWSLETTER

Susie McDonald, Editor
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

buildings_grounds@austinyachtclub.net
race_commander@austinyachtclub.net
vice_commodore@austinyachtclub.net
membership@austinyachtclub.net
sail_training@austinyachtclub.net
commodore@austinyachtclub.net
secretary@austinyachtclub.net
treasurer@austinyachtclub.net
harbor_commander@austinyachtclub.net

AYC 2015 RACE CALENDAR

Jan 1 Red Eye Regatta

AYC 2015 NON-RACING EVENTS

Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party



2015 Fall Work Day
photos by
Bruce McDonald





Austin Yacht Club
5906 Beacon Road
Austin, TX 78734-1428



HULL CLEANING

**Is Your Boat Dirty?
Are You Too Busy To Clean It?**

The Froelich and Brock Roadrunners are working to earn money to race in the upcoming Texas Sailing Association Circuit. We clean boat hulls, and scrub and polish decks.

BEFORE



AFTER

Please support us and contact us for a quote at
ethan@hasystems.com