

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB TELLTALE

January / February 2015



2015 Off to a Great Start



Red Eye!

Cover photo by Deborah Mathison

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SAVE THE DATE

Junior Sailing Info/Pizza Party FEB 20
Spring Series #1 MAR 8
ASA 101 Basic Keel Boat Class FEB 21-22
Spring Series #2 MAR 22
ASA Adult Sail Training FEB 21-22
Spring Series #3 MAR 29
Race Management Seminar FEB 21
Daylight Savings Time Begins MAR 7
Opening Day Brunch and Ceremony MAR 8



USODA MID-AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIP

June 20-21, 2015
Austin Yacht Club

2016 Team Trials Qualifier
Register at www.usoda.org
contact:
jeffbrock@me.com
www.austinyachtclub.net

From The Commodore

by Barry Bowden



The 2015 Austin Yacht Club Board of Directors approved the 2015 budget, capital improvements plan, and race schedule for the year at our first meeting. This was the result of three half days of meetings prior to the board meeting to discuss the items needing to be replaced at AYC and the financial means available to pay for them.

The continuing management of upkeep and replacement of assets of the club is a major function of the board. We first evaluate what needs to be replaced or repaired as well as new purchases that make our club a better place to be for our members.

The first evidence of this can already be seen in the new board boat docks that are being installed on the Rylander Pavilion. These are the first of the new docks that will eventually replace all of the worn out board boat docks that have served the club for many years. These four will allow the use of the IPE docks built by club members a few years ago to replace the most worn out of our existing board boat docks.

The last of the pipe/foam docks known as dock 5 will be replaced as well this year. This will be the last of the old style docks and will allow all of our docks to be connected to each other in the same manner. This will allow them to be used in other arrangements as soon as there is more water in the lake. (Please continue to do rain dances or any other method you may think will help.)

We have been able to meet the safety requirements that the LCRA has asked us to do in the past years. All of our docks now have ramps that are safer to walk on. The junior dock, the main set of docks, and even the race committee dock all have safer new approach ramps. The main docks are also able to be walked on without having to worry about falling through one of them. Plans are also in the works to provide metal stairs for access to the docks should the lake levels increase to make steps necessary.

At our first board meeting we also approved purchase of queen size beds to replace the futons in all of the cabins. The mattresses on the full size beds are also going to be replaced. The improvement in sleeping accommodations to the cabins should make them more popular and a better value. Other improvements are also planned but will come later in the year as finances allow.

The Long Range Planning Committee with the help of **Doug Kern** has completed a new survey of the club membership. We had a response from almost half of our membership, which is a great response. There will be a full report later from the LRPC, but I wanted to address some of the results and comments members have made.

The impressions from those who responded to the survey of how well the club is meeting their expectations was generally very favorable. Meeting the goals of the club to provide a good experience for racing sailboats was very evident. The lower lake levels of the past few years have made this even more difficult. The board is very aware of the difficulties faced

by those who trailer their boats and has done its best to address these problems. The board has spent more than \$200,000 over the last three years to improve the ability to launch and recover boats. The fact remains that we are limited to only doing some projects after the water has gone. Much time and effort has been given by many of our members searching for solutions to this problem. The metal ramp that was constructed by volunteers is the best solution we have so far. Other locations for placement of this ramp have been researched and we will continue to look for better solutions. Because we are now operating in what should be the bottom of the lake, we are unable to make permanent changes, for example paving, because of LCRA regulations and costs of doing this even if allowed.

Some other suggestions and comments in the survey related to providing electricity and water on the docks. The costs associated with this as well as the difficulty when our docks are so far from their full lake level positions makes this even less possible. One solution for working on your boats is to borrow a generator that many of the HydroHoist owners have to power their hoists. These will make a repair project a bit easier to accomplish.

Present and likely future government regulations and codes have made the option of a third floor on the clubhouse impossible unless we totally replace the existing clubhouse. Unfortunately many of these suggestions require huge amounts of money, and they are contrary to the basic principle of making the Austin Yacht Club as affordable as possible for anyone interested in the sport of racing sailboats.

Your 2015 Board of Directors is doing its best to make membership at the Austin Yacht Club as enjoyable as possible and a place you are proud to call your sailing home.

Please mark your calendar for March 8 for the Opening Day Brunch and Ceremony before the first race of the Spring Series.

Vice Commodore Report

by Molly Lewis



It's hard to believe that we are already over a month into 2015. We've had a pretty good mix of cold blustery days, beautiful it's-great-to-live-and-sail-in-Austin-in-the-winter days, and in-between chilly-with-not-quite-enough-wind days. And we seem to have had regattas or races in each of those conditions already – with good turn-outs and lots of

fun regardless! If that's an indication of the rest of 2015, then it sounds just about right for AYC – conditions sometimes perfect and sometimes a little short of perfect, but always just-right on the fun scale! If you haven't made it out yet this year, you're missing out, and there are lots of upcoming opportunities to join in.

We are looking forward to special Valentine's Day dinner hosted by the Roadrunner Fleet on February 14 to wrap up the 2015 Frostbite Series.

continued next page

Bring out your honey for a fun day of sailing and treat him or her to what promises to be a heartwarming Valentine's dinner in the as-romantic-as-you-want-to-make-it AYC Clubhouse.

Opening Day is scheduled for March 8. Come join us for an amazing brunch complete with **Bartlett's** Bloody Marys, followed by the Opening Day ceremony, and then Race #1 of the Spring Series. This is always a fun day, and we will be excited to have the Texas Centerboard Circuit joining us for race day, as well as a separate course for Optis to allow junior sailors to join in.

The AYC Board has approved and published the race calendar for 2015. Regattas already planned for the remainder of 2015 include:

- Easter Laser Regatta on April 4-5
- Chaparral del Mar (hosted by the Ensign Fleet and combined with the Spring Series EOS race) on April 19
- Turnback Regatta on Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-24
- Texas Sailing Association Youth Circuit Roadrunner Regatta on June 20-21. Excitingly, this year, the regatta will be combined with the USODA Mid Champs
- Independence Cup Regatta (hosted by the Keel Fleet) on July 4
- Centerboard Regatta on September 12-13
- Governor's Cup Regatta on October 24-25
- Wild Turkey Regatta (hosted by the Keel Fleet) tentatively set for November 28

Be looking for more details as the dates for these regattas draw nearer. And in between regattas, be sure to come out for series racing, Wednesday night Sunfish/Laser, Beer Can races, and Free-Sail Sundays! If you are looking for opportunities to volunteer or get involved in regattas in a different capacity (or have a great regatta chair or support staff you'd like to 'nominate'), please let me or another AYC Board member know. We can always use more hands!

Harbor Report

by Wade Bingaman



Much thanks to **Vic Manning** and **John Saunders** for their help last year on the Harbor Committee. For 2015 there is a new committee. **Bob Mathison** and **Jorge Martín-de-Nicolás** have agreed to help me. They have both already been very involved in harbor issues, and they will continue to be busy with harbor projects this year.

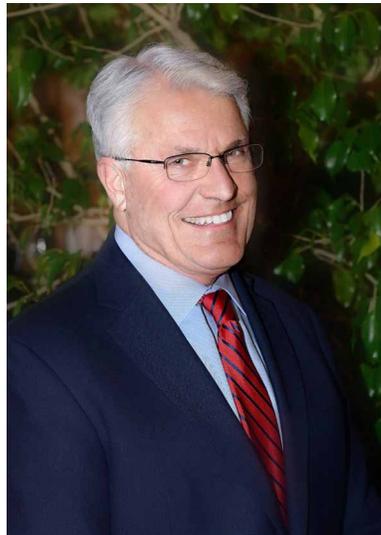
Four new board boat docks have been installed in the Junior dock system. I am very happy with how they turned out. Lakeside Marine deserves our appreciation for their help in creating some very nice docks. My hope is that we can continue to regularly replace the old wood board boat docks with these new metal beauties.

At the January meeting the board approved replacing keel boat Dock 5. This is old pipe and wood dock that is on its last legs. The new dock should be in place hopefully by early May. This will give us six strong docks to meet the fickle ups and downs of Lake Travis.

Later this year, I would like to add some permanent metal stairs at what I call the "half way" dock location. This is where the dock system is located along the side of our point when there is more water than we have now, but the lake is not full. These stairs will run off the current cement stairway at that location. This will make for safer and easier access to our boats when the docks are located there. I know there are some members who don't relish the idea of traversing a long stairway. At some point in the future if the club wants to, these stairs can accommodate a tram. But for right now, we hope we can get the stairs constructed and installed before the lake begins to fill.



Tim Purcell



James Lanshe



Darnelle Little and Keith Denebeim

**WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS!**

Race Commander Report

by Ed Taylor

Hello club members, it has been fast and furious and very rewarding the first month or so as Race Commander. My initiation by fire was either sink or swim; fortunately sailing won out. This has been nothing like helping out as a member of a race committee, not even close to being the PRO at some of the UT regattas under my daughter's command. There are responsibilities, duties, training and more meetings than a small business could run. And then perform at my first board meetings to get this year's racing season underway. Thank you to so many who have helped out along the way and the support from my wife, **Colleen**.

The AYC Board has approved and published the race calendar for the remainder of 2015. Fleets have been awarded their Race Committee duties. The Annual Racing Calendar can be found on the home page as well as the regular weekend series links.

The Permanent Race Committee has been approved by the board. The members are:

1. **Scoring Coordinator: Chris Thompson**
2. **John Parker**
3. **Jim Casto**
4. **Karen Bogish**
5. **Danny Lien**
6. **Elliot Bray**
7. **Charlie Pitkin**
8. **Jerry Clifford**
9. **Stefan Froelich**
10. **Bill Records**
11. **Peter Lang**
12. **Vic Manning**

Training is complete after the February 1 Race Management Seminar, while a Club Race Management course will be presented on February 24 for club members.

The Scoring Committee has initially gotten together to discuss scoring program(s), both on the water preliminary scoring with a tablet or smart phone (along with a paper record) while having the scores, printed, posted and archived for all members to view. Questions regarding scores are available online and share a link to contact series scoring by email.

The Race Commander's duties started earlier than normal helping out the Keel fleet with the Wild Turkey Regatta. The Red Eye Regatta was rescheduled a few days later for more favorable conditions that were both warm and dry. The Frostbite Series is under way and although I missed out on the first series race enjoying my duties as navigator to warmer waters. We jumped in the second race that began chilly but with warm sunshine and a pleasant but light NW 4-6 knot wind day. The fleet participation was great with close to 40 boats. Race three was probably the wettest and slowest race I have had on Lake Travis. There will be five other series during the year if you haven't made the Frostbite.

Sail Training Report

by Eric Rochard



LEARNING TO LEARN

General Fitness

Sailing can accommodate all physical abilities, from the Paralympic Skud to the F18. One of the best books on the subject is *Sailing Fitness & Training* by Michael Blackburn. It is more geared toward the laser sailor; however, for most of us it will help achieve a good level of fitness that will enhance our sailing experience. Endurance sports like running or biking provide core strength and the regular practice of Yoga will increase mental focus.

Printed Resources about Sailing and Racing

Libraries and bookshops are full of books about sailing and racing. For understanding the rules of sail racing (and beyond US Sailing rule book) I recommend Dave Perry's *Understanding the Racing Rules of Sailing through 2016* and *100 Best Racing Rules Quizzes 2013-2016*. The RYA (Royal Yachting Association) has an incredible collection of books on sail training – do not miss: *Race Training* by Jim Saltonstal or *RYA Laser Handbook* by Paul Goodison. For newspapers, there is a large choice too. The easiest to find is *Sailing World* (comes with your US Sailing registration), and there are the British ones: *Seahorse* and *Yacht and Yachting*. An incredible advanced resource for racers is *Speed&Smarts* by David Dellenbaugh.

Online and Video Resources

There are many sail and racing simulators available. I used to play *Sailing Tactics Simulator* (by Posey) a few years ago but there are now more up to date software options like *Tactical Sailing* or *Virtual Skipper*. On *Virtual Skipper* you can drive your boat at some of the greatest sailing events, for example for the Barcelona Race: www.thegame-barcelonaworldrace.org.

YouTube is full of interesting videos, Sail Training Academy for eLasers! Just type your favorite key words (Melges 32, J80, World...) and you will access hours of video footage. Focus on starts for example and you will be amazed at how much experience you can gain by looking at other boats. For the optis, one of my preferred videos is accessible on YouTube with the key words "KAAB Trophy Palamos 2005" ;-)

Practices and Drills

If you go early before the regatta on the water, you can practice not only the sail maneuvers but also improve your boat handling with a few exercises. Stop your boat 25 yards from a mark, start a 1-minute countdown and time yourself to reach this mark at full speed clause hauled at the top chrono. This way you will better understand the inertia of your boat and gradually improve your starts. For more drills: *Sailing Drills made Easy* by Geoffrey Becker (USSailing).

continued next page

Scrapbooking for Sailors!

Write down your sailing experience. This is not only an opportunity to practice cursive writing but also a nice way to collect your sailing souvenirs, pictures, sailing instructions, bar bill ... You will probably never read it again; however the effort to memorize and recreate situations and decisions is enhancing our experience and learning.

Start by date, location and people sailing with you and the race course. At AYC you can add the wind data from the AYC weather station at: <http://www.pointech.com/WX/logs.htm>. Record your location at the start and why did you choose to start there? You can sketch Lake Travis and your course from mark to mark. Indicate also your courses and speed (at least your feeling of speed like fast, slow, missing pointing). Try to remember when you did well and when you did not so well. From race to race you will improve your logs and you can even get digital and open a blog (<http://scotfyoungsailing.blogspot.com>) or a Facebook page you will share with your crew for debriefing.

Sail a good wind!

Sailing Director Report

by Kate Noble



Sail Training Commander Eric Rochard and I, with the help of the 2015 Sail Training Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee, have been busy over the offseason brainstorming and planning. We are looking forward to improving existing programs and introducing some brand new training initiatives in 2015.

Adult Training

Expanding our Adult Training program is high priority in 2015. Be on the lookout for the return of some old favorites like the Women's Clinic, Scott Young Start Clinic, and John Bartlett Sail Trim Clinic as well as some new advanced and beginning options to launch this spring. Our calendar is still under construction so keep your eye on the AYC website for the full schedule!

Junior Training

There has been plenty of Roadrunner activity around the club throughout the offseason! We have kept Free Sail Sundays running whenever weather and club schedule permits. Junior sailors have been very active in the Frostbite Series. Thank you to **Bill Records and the Roadrunner Fleet** for organizing and to all of the skippers who have welcomed juniors aboard their boats! Exposing our juniors to keelboats early on is a key component to providing a well-rounded sailing education as well as building life-long sailors.

Our Junior Sailing Program is already well underway for our Opti II & III racers. I am coaching a four-week Pre-Season for nine Opti sailors looking to get out on the water early to prep for the busy 2015 race schedule. For the rest of our Roadrunners, the Junior Sailing Program will begin on March 6 with weekly practices for Opti I (Beginners), Opti II (Green Fleet), Opti III (Red, White & Blue Fleets), Lasers, and FJs. For more information on our

Junior Sailing Program, please contact me at kate@austinyachtclub.net or join us on Friday, February 20 at 6:00 in the AYC Clubhouse for a Junior Sailing Program Info Session & Pizza Party! Potential members are welcome!

Junior Racing News

Three AYC sailors made the trip to Miami for the Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta Dec. 26-30. Congratulations to **Michael Morran** (Club 420), **Spencer LeGrande** (Laser Radial), and **Tony Slowik** (Opti White Fleet)! Our AYC sailors all did a fantastic job. Both Michael and Tony brought home some hardware! Michael placed 6th with CCYC skipper Zane Tinnell and Tony placed 5th in Opti White Fleet.

Tony Slowik III traveled to St. Petersburg, FL for the USODA Valentine's Day Regatta Feb. 7-8. Check out contributor Tony Slowik's article for the full report!

Summer Programs

Registration for AYC's Junior Sailing Camp and PB&J is now OPEN! Visit our website for more information and links to registration.

2015 Dates:

Junior Sailing Camp:

Session 1: June 8-12

Session 2: June 15-19

Session 3: June 22-26

Session 4: July 6-10

Session 5: July 13-17

Session 6: July 20-24

PB&J Summer Sailing Series:

Session 1: Sat. 5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/27 (9:30)

Session 2: Sat. 5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/27 (11:00)

Session 3: Sun. 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/28 (9:30)

Session 4: Sun. 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/28 (11:00)

Session 5: Sat. 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1 (9:30)

Session 6: Sat. 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1 (11:00)

Session 7: Sat. 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29 (9:30)

Session 8: Sat. 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29 (11:00)

Please note that to obtain member-pricing on the Junior Sailing Camp and/or PB&J, you will need to enter a coupon code at checkout. Please contact the AYC office for the code!

AYC is now HIRING season instructors for the 2015 Junior Sailing Camp. Interested applicants should contact me at kate@austinyachtclub.net or (512) 266-1336.

Valentine's Day Regatta Summary

by Tony Slowik



As I am sitting in the hotel at almost 9:30 a.m. waiting for the crew to wake up from a much needed "sleep-in" day I thought I would email a summary of the event. In case we are not Facebook friends.

First of all, St. Petersburg is gorgeous! It is like a giant Coconut Grove. The club and sailing center are right downtown so there are literally 100s of shops, restaurants and bars nearby in walking distance. The kids sail on a stunning Bay right out in front of the club.

The first day started out breezy in the morning and they quickly got one race off. Unfortunately, Tony got rolled at the start and just could not recover. It is tough to get a good start in an 89 boat fleet. I could not even imagine what that would be like. So he ended up in 66th. Only one race was raced because once it heated up the wind just shut off. This left him in 137th overall and 30th in white fleet. We had one bummed little kiddo that afternoon.

The second day we decided that he might as well go for it! Since he was so far down and what obviously looked like out of trophy contention with another light day ahead we decided to be really aggressive on the line and do things he would not normally do. They had a 7:15 a.m. harbor start! To take advantage of early wind. We rigged in the dark! In the first race of the day he got a 16! This moved him up from 137th to 76th and from 30th to 10th (trophy!)! In the second race he banged out a 9! This would have easily moved him up to top 5 and top 40 overall! However, most of the fleet did not finish in the time limit so in all fairness USODA threw that race out. Wind died, no more racing.

This was our last White Fleet event and Tony salvaged the regatta in the 2nd day! We were all so happy. This event will now be on our permanent schedule and we hope some of you attend next year! The top 70 qualified for Team Trials and some of those kids I know our kids could beat!

Look out Blue Fleet here we come! Today is Tony's birthday

Sailing News from the Roadrunner Fleet

by Stefan Froelich

At the AYC Annual Banquet the first ever perpetual Roadrunner award was presented to its namesake **Bill Records**. Over the last several years, the Roadrunner program has expanded exponentially. Its success is due to the roles and contributions of several people. That evening we recognized one specific and special individual. It would be expected that parents of juniors would be highly involved, and they are. It might not be expected that an individual would consistently, year after year, be a pivotal leader in the program development. He had the forethought to hire a staff coach. He is a mentor to the entire team. He shows up to weekly practices and

every AYC regatta to volunteer his time. Without this unselfish contribution the Roadrunner fleet would not be what it is today. It is therefore with honor that we presented the first ever Roadrunner perpetual award to its namesake **Bill Records**!

Thank you to the entire 2014 RoadRunner Board.

Upcoming Sailing Opportunities

Texas Sailing Association

Check out www.txsail.org for the circuit schedule and mark your calendars. If you are new to the idea of traveling for sailing, email or call for details.

Gulf Coast Championships

Bay-Waveland Yacht Club, Mississippi, www.bwyc.org The competition is at the end of spring break – March 20-22 – and offers both a championship and a beginner fleet. Registration at www.USODA.org. This is a qualifier for the 2015 Team Trials. There is a nearby hotel and RV resort 1 mile from yacht club. <http://www.hollywoodgulfcoast.com/> They claim to be one in the top 100 best campgrounds and have a marina.

USODA Mid-America Championship along with the Texas Sailing Association

Texas Junior Laser Championship at the RoadRunner Regatta on June 20-21

Please mark your calendars now for racing and volunteering that weekend.

2015 Board of Directors

Fleet Captain – Stefan Froelich

Sportsmanship Chair – Jeff Brock

Treasurer – Meeta Singh

Secretary – Polly Peel

Social Chair – Constanze Heitkoetter

Safety Chair – Bill Records

Membership Chair – Paul Carew

Midwinter AYC Apparel Sale

AYC Fleece Vests	\$21.00
AYC Fleece Jackets	\$28.00
AYC Long Sleeve Cotton Shirts	\$9.00
AYC Long Sleeve Dry Wick	\$13.00
AYC Soft Shell Jacket	\$39.00

Sizes on hand are very limited.
Any member who has purchased any of these items during the month of February will receive the sale price.

Email gm@austinyachtclub.net
for sizes and availability.

RED EYE REGATTA

Article by Jim Johnstone, Photos by Deborah Mathison

RED EYE REGATTA ROUNDUP



After postponing the typical New Year's Day Regatta to Sunday, January 4 because of cold and rain, the regatta committee was sweating bullets as we watched the forecasts for Sunday go from delightful (for January) to dreadful and then tilt back a little toward tolerable. On the Friday before the race we committed ourselves fully and at noon on Sunday the temperature was just at the cutoff, with a cool north

breeze and plenty of sunshine. **Brad Davis**, our race officer, declared "Game on!" with one caveat: everyone must wear life jackets. That turned out to be the right call.

There were 27 boats divided into A, B, and C PHRF fleets, and the Multihulls who raced under the Portsmouth handicap. Race committee reversed the normal start sequence, sending the C fleet out first. This caused some confusion at the second start when A fleet decided to go right along with B fleet. I was listening to the radio when the chase boat reported "a lot of boats over early" and then the RC replied their starting signal had not been given yet. Or had it? Some A fleet boats thought they saw their number flag up, but everyone complied with the RC's request to regroup for a (re)start.

After that, things settled down and all fleets away and the race was on. The spinnaker and non-spinnaker boats put the 9-sec per mile offset to a good test with many of the non-spinnaker boats showing their counterparts the fast way around the course. The north winds shifted and came on strong then faded, changing velocity and direction, making keeping your chute filled a daunting downwind task.

Thanks to their early start and a shorter course, the C fleet boats were first to return and proceeded to drain the beer kegs, a seldom enjoyed privilege for them. That lasted until they discovered the hot buttered rum, provided by **Vic and Pat Manning**. They decided that on a cold day, hot rum goes just as well with chips and queso as beer does on a hot day.

Bill Records was first to finish in his Pearson 26 One Design racing non-spinnaker, but **George Dahmen** was only five minutes behind in his Ensign (spinnaker) and claimed the first on corrected time by just 20 seconds. **John Durfor** in a Pearson 26 (non-spin) was 3rd.

The B fleet came in a few minutes later, led by **Patick Hitchins** in his J/24 (spin) followed by **Rhonda Moore** in another J/24 (spin). **Steve Brown** in his J/22 (non-spin) came in 3rd after leading much of the race. **Bruce Uphaus and crew Bill Mitchell** launched themselves into the drink after performing an unplanned spinnaker maneuver in their J/22. They were very happy to be wearing those life jackets, as **Barry Thornton and Richard Whitehill** got the chase boat there quickly to fish them out of the water. Their spinnaker was in shreds after plowing through the water and the pole had a new kink in it. **Bruce and Bill** were cold and wet but otherwise OK. **Bruce and crew** got the "Have a drink on us" award for their derring do.

Speaking of cold, **Terri Shertz** was looking for ice when she came in after getting smacked in the face with random boat parts. She was going to tell us which part but had some difficulty talking with an ice bag on her face. We gave her the special "Taking it on the chin, for the team" award for efforts above and beyond the call of duty.

Over in A fleet, **John Bartlett** was feeling fine after a morning spent mixing (and drinking?) Bloody Marys. **John** scored some vodka donated by our now very good friends at **Enchanted Rock Vodka**. **John** led the A fleet home ahead of **Claude Welles and Ed Taylor** all in J/80s.

The Multihulls were given an exceptionally long course which was mercifully shortened so they and the committee could get in and enjoy the merriment beginning to unfold at the club. **Jim Casto** created a beautiful new trophy for the Multihulls that was a wooden letter 1, painted red. He liked it so much that he kept it after a first place finish while **John Kuc**, 2nd, and **Bo Kersey**, 3rd, dolefully looked on.

The **Hap McCollum Trophy**, awarded to the Keelboat racing spinnaker with the fastest corrected time, was claimed by **Patrick Hitchins** who proved the old J/24s are still a force to be reckoned with. He corrected out over **John Bartlett** by only 45 seconds after adjusting for distance sailed.

Steve Vaughan and John Bartlett told some entertaining stories about **Hap** and the tradition of the Red Eye Regatta during the awards presentation.

The after party featured barbecue turkey and brisket, coleslaw and a potato casserole followed by homemade brownies in case you were not starting a diet for the New Year, or were ending it early.

LIGHTS.....CAMERA.....ACTION!!!

Friday Night at the Movies has returned to Austin Yacht Club!

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

7:30 PM

FEBRUARY 13 - MARCH 13

In the AYC Clubhouse



[More photos](#) ▷▷



RED EYE





More photos >>

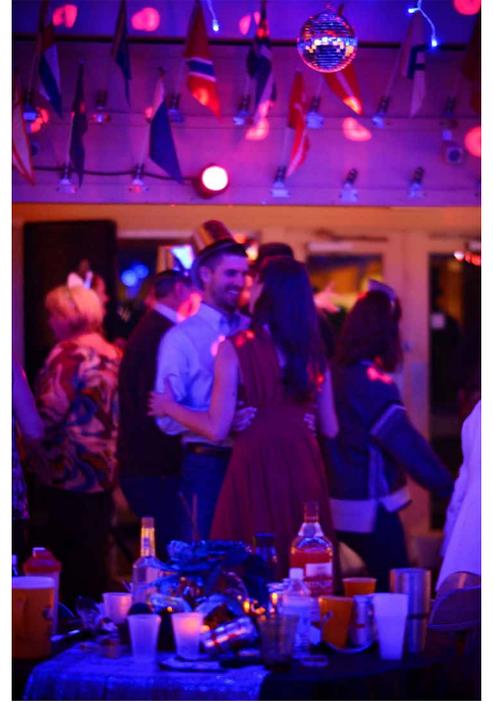


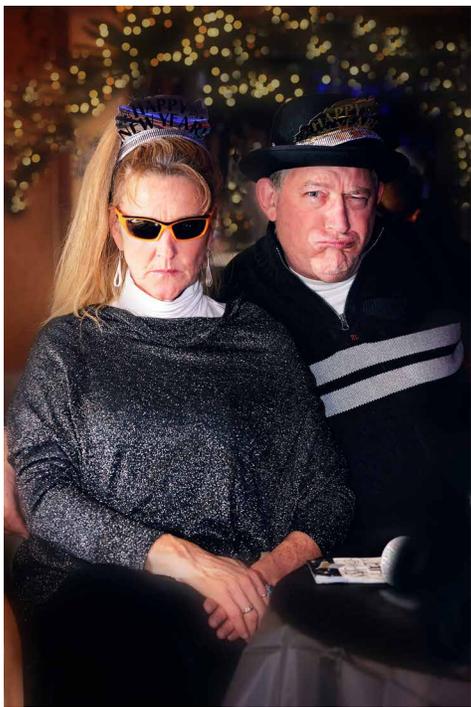
RED EYE



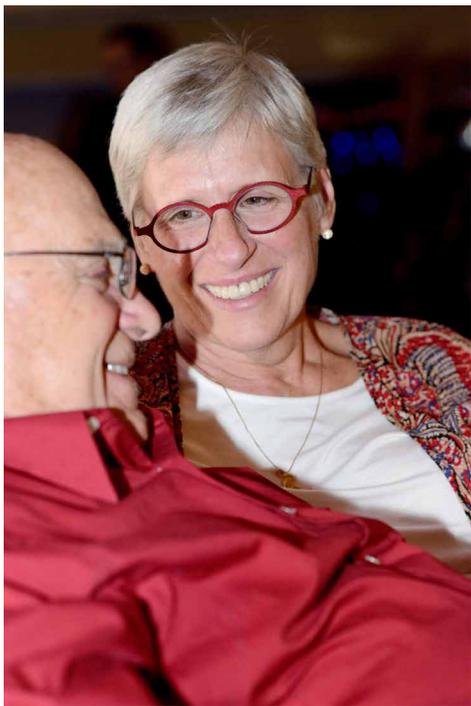
NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Photos by Deborah Mathison





NYE





NYE



FROSTBITE



Candace Miller



Candace Miller



Candace Miller



Photos by Bruce McDonald





FROSTBITE



Photos by Bruce McDonald





FROSTBITE



Photos by Bruce McDonald

More photos ▷▷





Thanks, Vic!

Photo by Cheryl Pervier

Keel Fleet Update

by Chris Thompson, Keel Fleet Secretary

The Keel Fleet board met Saturday, February 7 in the clubhouse to kick off official business for 2015. Some changes and improvements (we hope!) are afoot.

Beer Can Races

First and foremost – the Beer Can Races. Beer Can Races and dinners will begin on April 17 and continue weekly through September 11. The traditional menu of burgers, brats, and fixings will be available for the same prices. To better manage resources and volunteers, some new guidelines are in effect for 2015. First, at least five boats must start the race. If fewer than five boats show up any given week, then the dinner will not be served. Also, the last food will go on the grill one hour after the first place boat finishes. So, if you show up to race, get your burgers on before you go back out for that evening swim or cruise!

To spread both the work and potential revenues among the various fleet organizations, the Keel Fleet will be coordinating with other groups who are interested in participating in the fun of running this weekly event. The Ensign Fleet will be your gracious hosts for the month of June.

A little Beer Can retrospective is provided by **Steve Vaughn**:

The Keel Fleet created the Beer Can event about 20 years ago to encourage sailing participation by providing a fun event to bring all sailors together independent of AYC or Fleet membership. Initially there was only food service in the sense of a common charcoal grill that participants used to cook their own food. When food service became a more important aspect of the event, the fleet purchased a commercial gas grill to expedite the cooking. This purchase led to selling burgers to cover costs. It was a bit of a surprise that the selling of burgers produced an income to the fleet. Over the years this income has been reinvested in the event and the club with such purchases as refrigerators, new commercial grills, the weather station, donations to club funds as well as sustaining losses from other fleet events. The Beer Can event is one of the key events of the AYC annual calendar and it retains its initial objective to get more people sailing and has expanded into a great sailor recruitment tool by providing a fun low overhead method to draw people into sailing.

Frequent Sailor Program

The popular Frequent Sailor Program will continue with the same rules as last year. Prizes for participation will be awarded, limit one per boat or family, to those in attendance at the annual Keel Fleet meeting. If you have ideas for some nifty \$10-15 raffle prizes, please send them my way.

Keel Fleet Championship

The Keel Fleet Championship will be revived this year. The events that will be included are the Spring and Fall Series races, Independence Day Regatta, and the Wild Turkey Regatta. The scoring method for determining the championship is still being researched.

Ratings Committee Open Meeting

The Ratings Committee will hold its quarterly open meeting on March 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the AYC clubhouse. Discussion of any open Ratings Reviews and any new requests will be on the agenda. If you have a boat that has not sailed at AYC in the past, or are the new owner of an existing AYC boat, please submit a Ratings Review request (it is online) so that you can get a current Ratings Certificate on file for your boat. Your race scorers will thank you!

Opening Day

Opening Day on March 8 starts Spring Series #1. A Fleet will be Race Committee for that day. B fleet has Race #2 (3/22) and C fleet will manage race #4 (4/12).

Race Management Seminar

The next Race Management seminar will be 10-4 on Saturday, February 21. Anyone interested in understanding what goes on in executing a sailing event should attend.

Keel Fleet Captain's Corner

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

by Hector Lujan

Beer Can Races start April 17 and you are invited! The Ensign Fleet will host our Beer Can meals for June. Fleet Captains, consider team building with us: We invite our AYC fleets to take your turn on the grill as a fund raiser or team building experience. Training and details provided.

Keel Fleet Bumper Stickers: Free to the fleet, just ask for one.

Join us on Facebook: AYC Keel Fleet 2015. We now have 27 members and good videos, or post your own photo! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/342836442589024/>

B Fleet Heavy Boats: You are invited to step down to C Fleet for fair competition. Check with B Fleet Captain **Jim Johnstone** for details. jjohnstone@austin.rr.com This is so heavy boats like Catalina 25s and 30s do not have to compete against lighter, faster boats.

Cruising Fleet Forming: The Catalina Fleet 69 has invited us to cruise and dine with them on their monthly raft-up.

Keel Fleet Wants You! Easy Sign Up! Participation is our number one fleet priority this year. Join us for a great year! Come out to our social events, beer can races and parties.

Please support us with your \$15 dues. Send a short email with your member number to Chris Thompson at goboatin@gmail.com
"Chris, Please sign me up for Keel Fleet. My member number is _____"

Thanks, and see you on the water!

C Fleet Update

by Bill Records



C Fleet has become one of the most active fleets at AYC and continues to grow. The appeal of boats that you can cruise with the family on Saturday and race on Sunday is catching on. The most popular Sail Training clinic last year was the Cruising Clinic and two are planned this year! Recently we welcomed three new skippers to C fleet: **Mack Warner (Ranger 23)**, **Dave Grizel (Pearson 260D)**, and **Doichin Tzolov (San Juan 24)**. **James Parsons**, the Crew Guru, is skippering **Annie Frey's** Pearson in the Frostbite Series.

The first two races of the Frostbite became drifters, like we have in July. The third race was less than a drifter with the added attraction of constant drizzle! Yours truly thought I was sailing an Ensign and started in the second start. After a while of sailing all alone, we realized that our awesome start was actually OCS. 15 minutes later we legally started and like before were all alone!

In spite of the borderline conditions, **John Durfor** outworked the fleet taking first place. **James Parsons** took second, beating **Hector Lujan** by seconds. Overall several boats did not finish and many were towed back to the club.

Some of the C fleet skippers are changing out their roller furling gear for standard forestays, allowing them to use hanked-on jibs. You might say that they are transforming their boats from "Cruiser/Racers" to "Racer/Cruisers". **Mike Singh** and **Bob Gallant** have changed theirs and more



recently, **Dave Grizel** did his with the mast up and the boat in his slip. With the sage advice and direction of **Vic Manning** and **Dane Ohe**, the job was completed in about three hours. Surprisingly the hardest part

was replacing the old cotter pins! After securing the spin halyard plus an additional line to the bow pulpit, Dave's younger son, **Patrick** (150 lbs), was hoisted aloft to the masthead, while his older son, **Kevin**, provided the muscle on the halyard winch.



2015 Race Committee

Our new Race Commander, **Ed Taylor**, has formed his committee and has posted the 2015 Racing Schedule. C Fleet has three race committee assignments: April 12, Sunday, 1:30 PM; July 18, Saturday, 4:00 PM; November 15, Sunday, 1:30 PM. We will need 10-12 volunteers for each assignment, meeting at the RC room (beneath the clubhouse) two hours before the start times. Being part of a race committee is very rewarding and will help you become a better racer. Also, you are returning the favor to those who have taken the time to run races for you. We just had a Race Committee seminar and will be having a second one on February 21. I hope many of you will attend and I guarantee, you will learn a lot.



Frostbite 2015

NOTICE: At the January 22, 2015 Board of Directors meeting it was proposed and approved to increase the membership dues and harbor fees approximately 3% to the nearest dollar. If you have recurring payments with your financial institution, please adjust your payments according to the new dues and harbor rates. Thank you.

J24 Fleet Update

by Dave Broadway

After the White Elephant Christmas party shenanigans, the fleet didn't slow down during the holidays. Two new boat owners have surfaced to kick off the 2015 season. **Amanda Casey** is the new Ohh Ahh owner. The Doc has agreed to be conscripted as a mentor/crew. Amanda has already tried to steal my pit crew. Meanwhile, **Chris Hammel** is the new owner of Mizzmo, formerly owned by **David Grizzle**. His crew list is longer than anyone else's in the fleet with access to the UTSC database. With his 2014 Circuit season under the belt while at the helm of Jolly Bevo 1, he will be a force to be reckoned with.

Fleet Captains **John and Meiling Parker, Stu Juengst and Noelle Munoz**, along with **Russ, Jill, and Alia Shermer** chartered a 46' Jeanneau down to St. Vincent and beyond. Nearby, **Jorge Marín-de-Nicolás, Matt, Deepa, and Thomas Roberts, and Greg, Joan, and Damien Freeman** chartered a catamaran, hooking up with the aforementioned troops. Must be nice! Time to get back to the little boats every weekend.



Photo courtesy Matt Roberts

The Frostbite Series ends soon. We have had a light turnout, some light air, and RC duty. However, the fleet is gearing up for the start of the Spring Series on Sunday, March 8, with some RTB racing!



Photo courtesy Stu Juengst

The J/24 Texas Circuit Regatta begins on March 21-22 at GBCA. AYC fleet participation continues to be the largest single fleet represented on the Circuit. The AYC fleet will have 5-6+ entries again during 2015! Circuit crew opportunities available; if you are interested, contact **John Parker** or **Jorge Marín-de-Nicolás**.

At the J/24 US Class level, there are rumors that Giggles will be racing at both the J/24 Nationals at Berkeley in May, and again at the J/24 Downeast/North American Championships at Portland, ME in September. At the 2014 US Nationals, Team Giggles had a fantastic 16th finish overall among 45 starters and many pros, including the 2014 J/24 US Nationals and 2014 World Champion Will Welles. **Natalie Penner** also was honored as top skipper in the separately scored Womens' Division. Giggles finished 4th on the 2014 J/24 TX Circuit Regatta, only 6 points out of first overall. One can assume what the team Giggles J/24 Circuit goal is for 2015!

Stay tuned as the 2015 J/24 racing seasons gets into high gear!!

Sunfish Fleet Update

by Annie Lancaster



In lieu of the traditional Pot Luck dinner, the Sunfish fleet celebrated the 2014 season at Los Pinos. A great time was had by all and thanks to **John and Bartlett Sails** for the first round of margaritas!

The 2014 Wednesday night series featured a number of nights with winds 20+ and not one night with no wind. We had 23 different boats on the line at one time or another and

always looking for more! This year's men's champion is **Ed Hill**, followed by **Kevin Reynolds** and then **John Bartlett**. It pays to show up and play! **Annie Lancaster** is the women's champion followed by **Sarah Faust**. The Ann Gairloff Memorial Trophy was awarded to **Jenny Loehlin**. Many thanks to **Kevin Reynolds** who served as our 2014 fleet captain, **Pat Manning** our treasurer and **Ted Owens/Joe Horn** our score keepers. For 2015 we elected **Ed Hill** as the fleet captain. **Pat** volunteered to stay on as treasurer and **Joe** will be taking over as fleet scorer.

The fleet has decided to keep sailing throughout the winter, weather permitting. After daylight savings, we will hopefully be sailing on the weekend opposite the series races. **Ed** has initiated an email invite to inform us when we will be sailing so contact him if you would like to participate.

This coming year, the North American Championship regatta will be at Rush Creek Yacht club in Heath, Texas up by Dallas in June, 2015. This is a great opportunity to meet sailors from around the country and have fun sailing. We are rallying the AYC Sunfish owners to get their boats out of storage and come out and practice so AYC will have a great showing at the regatta.

Catalina 22 Fleet Update

by Steve Pervier

Hello, Fleet 69! I volunteered to be Fleet Captain this year after talking with 2014 Fleet Captain **Ted Owens** about promoting Catalina 22 racing. Some ideas already voiced include sharing technical help on boat and trailer setup, and offering tips and training on racing strategy to newer racers in our fleet.

I have been a member of Austin Yacht Club and the Catalina 22 Fleet for a long time, though we took a break from racing for a while. **Cheryl** and I also enjoy lake cruising, bareboat chartering, and sailing a variety of boats, but the Catalina 22 has been our best boat for double-handed racing.

For 2015, our AYC board has approved six series of races plus five regattas in which C22s would be eligible, for a total of 35 race dates. We will encourage participation on selected dates, so a stronger fleet will be racing together. Two series already suggested, as they fall in months of more moderate temperature, are Summer Series (5/3, 17, 31, 6/7, 14) and Late Summer Series (9/20, 27, 10/4, 12). Please let us know if these dates work for you.

Catalina 22 sailors **Wade Bingaman, John Grzinich, Paul Jensen, and Cheryl** and I ran the first Frostbite Series race committee on January 17. New AYC member **Steve Sanderson and his son Quinn** also served on our committee. Our usual MonArk committee boat was in mid-renovation, so **Vic Manning** provided his Pearson 26 and added his very helpful expertise. Thanks to Vic and all our volunteers for their good RC work, especially in monitoring fleets so we could shorten course when the wind dropped off.

I look forward to talking with each of you, to find out what fleet members want most in our racing program. See you on the water!

Ensign Fleet Update

by George Dahmen

The Ensign Fleet is proud to welcome our latest restored Ensign, **Tom Groll's # 578**. I nominate her to be recognized as the most beautiful Ensign in our Fleet. It is good to see our fleet compliment of beautiful, well maintained Ensigns. If you have the time, and **Tom** is on the dock, stop by to see the excellent woodwork. **Tom** showed us how fast "Medley Of Vegetables" (aka #578) is when he horizoned (that's a sailor's verb) the fleet during the Wild Turkey Regatta.

The Red Eye Regatta was a Polar (as in how cold is it) affair. The winds gusted 20-22 and it was COLD. Most of the Ensign skippers were stoking a fire and watching the Steelers not play football. But they were warm and I am sure a little warm toddy mellow. **Frans Dahmen and Dave Gamble** were the only two Ensign skippers to sail in the event and they were probably wishing they were watching the Steelers or at least near a fireplace somewhere.

The two Frostbite races in January were sailed in pleasant weather with variable winds. Our fleet mixed it up nicely with boats from behind

catching leading boats and swapping back again. We were sailing to the whims of Lake Travis winds. I believe **Frans and Danny** are tied for first so far with plenty of racing yet to go. I think we have a nice start for the year and I hope we can maintain a nice level of participation of at least five or six boats on the line for each race. So, keep on coming out! Also let's keep our distance from each other and avoid collisions at all costs. We don't want to bang our nicely renovated Ensigns into each other.

Jonathan and Tamara Baker hosted our annual meeting/dinner. We had a great evening of laughter, football and food. . .we even had a short business meeting.

The Ensign fleet will host the Chaparral de Mar Regatta again this year. The Regatta takes place during the Ensign Spring Series EOS (End of Series) start. Regatta contestants will skipper all Ensigns. In order to compete, a skipper must be 75 or older, be a current or former AYC member or the parent of an AYC member. The Ensign Fleet will make their boats available to qualified skippers, complete with crew and fully rigged ready to sail. If you are interested in sailing or know someone who is interested, please contact **Danny Lien** (dannylien@gmail.com) or Lewis Price (lprice00@hotmail.com).

I believe that is all the January news I can come up with. Happy Ensign sailing!

IN MEMORIAM



Roy Daley Smith, Jr. was born September 5, 1952 in Houston, Texas. He is preceded in death by his parents, Roy Sr. & Adele Smith. He passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack on February 9, 2015 in Cary, NC. Roy graduated from Mary Carroll High School in Corpus Christi, TX in 1970 and The University of Texas in Austin in 1976 with a B.A. in Computer Science, and remained a faithful Longhorn follower and supporter. He worked for many years in the computer science industry with Texas Instruments and IBM and was transferred to Cary, NC in 2001.

Roy had a passion for all sports that his three daughters participated in. He went from coaching them on the sidelines to becoming a select/club soccer referee for the past 10 years in the Cary, NC area. Roy was loved and respected by all. He touched the lives of many through his years of refereeing; not just those with whom he shared officiating, but with coaches, players and parents alike. He will be remembered for his easy, friendly smile, his generous words of encouragement and willingness to always help others.

Roy married the love of his life, Nancy Myers Smith, May 29, 1982 in Austin, TX. He is survived by his three beautiful daughters, Ashley Smith of Cary, NC, Emmy Smith of Albuquerque, NM and Brittany Smith of Cary, NC. In addition he is survived by his sisters, Frances Steele (Jack) of Houston, TX, Beckie Zientara of Austin, TX and Patti Riggs (Randy) of Austin, TX. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews in Austin, TX.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Capital Area Soccer League, 5017 Memory Road, Raleigh, NC 27609, <http://www.caslnc.com/>

Ray & Sandra's Sailing Adventure

by Ray Shull

In early December, we were fortunate to be invited to be on the race committee for the Star Sailing League 2014 season championship in Nassau. We had earlier found that this regatta was being held in Nassau and I contacted the Nassau Yacht Club and offered to help.

This sailing series includes a series of regattas around the world during the year. The top 20 teams overall based on each regatta's score are invited to sail in the final championship in Nassau. All travel expenses are paid for the invited twenty teams and the boats, hotel, and meals are all provided for the competitors by the regatta sponsor. Plus the teams were competing for \$200,000 in total prize money.

Sandra and I were assigned to the leeward mark/rescue boat for the four day regatta. The format was for three days of fleet racing with all twenty boats competing. On the final day only the top ten boats raced in the first race of the day. Then for the second race of that day, only the top seven boats from the previous race continued. For the final race of the event only the top four boats from the previous race competed. The winner of that final race, with only four boats competing, was the winner of the regatta and awarded the \$100,000 first prize. The event was live-streamed on the internet and carried in a few countries on live TV. Dennis Conner provided some of the commentary and handed out the trophies and awards.

The sailing ability of these teams was amazing and the action was intense. Every boat was right on the line at the starting gun, and the mark roundings, jibes, and tacks were smooth and efficient. On the downwind legs, the mast is canted forward an extreme and the crew stands right next to the mast. Then the skipper and crew continually work together to pump, rock, and change the hull angle to try to surf each wave. It was amazing to watch these crews catch a wave and pass three or four boats before their ride ended. Then another nearby boat would catch the next wave and pass them back.

Our position at the leeward mark gave us a great view of the boats as they headed toward us. We would typically set the start line, then a leeward gate after the start, and then patrolled the lower half of the course to see if anyone needed assistance. The first day of the regatta was the windiest, and we had one boat break a mast, another one broke a tiller, another one broke a jib sheet, and one boat broke a mainsheet block. Except for the broken mast, the other boats were able to make repairs between races with the help of the support boat and continue racing. Each competitor and every mark on the course also had a gps transponder, which was used to generate a real-time course virtual race monitor for the TV and live-streaming audience. It was fun to watch the replays of the races each evening and recall the boats that did well in the races that day.



A very international leeward mark rounding

The last race of the regatta came down to teams from the US (Mark Mendelblatt), a Brazilian team, a Swedish team, and a team from Poland. The Brazilian team had appeared to have the best downwind boat speed. The team from Poland was very fast on the upwind legs. The Swedish team was the current Star world champion, and the US team had been very consistent in all conditions. The final race was decided in the last fifty yards of the last leg when the US team expertly surfed a wave to pull ahead of the Swedish boat and win by a boat length.

The trophy presentation and awards were in the Olympic style of raising the flags of each country's team on the podium and playing the national anthem of the winner. Following the flag portion, each of the podium teams were given large bottles of Moët Champaign which they sprayed on the other teams, themselves, and any spectators nearby. The Swedish team was observed to be doing more drinking than spraying from the bottles.



The flag portion of the award ceremony (That's Dennis Connor standing next to the diving board)

After the regatta ended, we began our preparations for departing Nassau and heading for the Exuma Islands. We stocked up on supplies at the nearby market for an extended trip. We knew that these islands were fairly light on places for provisioning, so we loaded as many of the necessities as the boat would store, topped up the fuel tank, filled the water tanks, and watched the weather. The winds were forecast to increase out of the north with an upcoming frontal passage, and then return to a more typical easterly direction and speed in a few days.

Later that night, after the winds had increased to about 20-25 out of the north (in the marina), we heard quite a bit of noise and yelling on the dock next to ours. The next morning we noticed a fairly large sailing vessel named the Yankee Clipper had arrived the previous night and was

probably the source of what we had heard. Sandra wandered over to their vicinity and visited with them. They had departed from the Boston area and sailed to Nassau with only a few passengers and a minimal crew to relocate the boat to the Bahamas for future island chartering. The passage had gone well until the recent frontal passage when strong winds had created fairly big waves for the previous day before their arrival. The two passengers described the joys of seasickness with remarkable detail. They also indicated that several of the crew members were similarly suffering and they couldn't wait to arrive at Nassau and escape from the clutches of the angry ocean. They had docked with most of the crew "under the weather" so that the remaining crew had their hands full with the dockage. They apparently had recovered by the next morning and were readying the boat for its next charter. We watched them depart the next day with their next group of sailors.



After the frontal winds died down and returned to an easterly direction, we departed Nassau headed for Highbourne Cay, our next destination. This island is in the northern portion of the Exhuma Island chain and appeared to be a good destination. Just north of Highbourne Cay is Allen Cay, which is known for its numerous iguanas. Apparently these iguanas are known for their practice of coming out of the brush onto the sand beach when boats approach. They then expect to be fed by the people that come to the beach, and have been known to become somewhat aggressive if food is not provided. We decided to bypass this place since our supplies of iguana kibble were minimal.

As we approached Highbourne Cay we decided to anchor for the first night just outside of the island's cove and then spend a couple of nights



inside the cove at the marina. A short time after we anchored, we noticed a small brown and white bird had landed on the boat. This bird seemed quite inquisitive, not afraid of us, and willing to accept small pieces of banana and small crackers. This bird stayed on the boat for an hour or so, before departing back to the nearby island. We've had similar experiences a couple of times before, there must be something about sailboats that birds like.

The next day, we hoisted anchor and motored the short distance to the protected Highbourne Cay Marina. One of the many friends that we had met in Nassau, (Chris-the owner of the Nassau Cricket Club Restaurant),

told us to say hello to his friends Kevin and Caroline at the Highbourne Marina. They were the managers of the marina, restaurant, and the villas at this resort. This marina was a great place to spend a couple of days with a nice restaurant, excellent docks, some provisions at their store, and wonderful beaches and nearby reefs. We had an enjoyable couple of days exploring the area. The second day we met Kevin and Caroline (who had been in Nassau the day we arrived) and Kevin gave us a tour of the entire island, including the villas that can be rented for a few thousand dollars per night (and are often frequented by celebrities).

The island is owned by the Bacardi family, who maintain a family compound on the north side of the island. They have developed the south side of the island with the marina, restaurant, and the dozen villas that can be rented. They have built a water purification plant, power generator, beach access roads, and maintain the facility wonderfully. It's a great place to visit and enjoy the crystal clear water and beaches.

There are a good number of very big fishing yachts that visit the marina and either head east to fish the deep waters of the Atlantic, or west to the shallow waters of the Exhuma Banks. These fishing boats based at the marina have resulted in a continuous group of sharks that congregate at the end of the dock where the fish cleaning station is located. There is a sign at the end of this dock that warns people of the sharks in the water - not that they can't easily be seen. I think that I would heed this warning. There may be some mean ones mixed in with the nurse sharks.



Sharks at the end of the dock. These guys are 6-8 feet long.

After spending a couple of days at Highbourne Cay, we departed for our next stop at Normans Cay. This island was owned in the 70's and 80's by a drug smuggler who built a runway and several houses on the island. Today the runway is only used by visitors to the area and a small resort development is being built on the south end of the island. We anchored for a few days in Normans' Cut, on the south side of the island. This is near the runway and the proposed development, and even a plane wreck from the smuggling days of the island was visible during low tide near our anchorage. This anchorage was well protected and provided a great place to hang out for a few days.

After spending a few days at Norma's Cay, we headed a little further south to a place called Warderick Wells Cay. This island is located within the

Continued next page

Bahamas National Sea Park. It is a beautiful spot with crystal clear water, beautiful beaches, no development or houses, except for the housing for the park staff, and plenty of places to relax or explore. We stayed several days in this idyllic setting.

As we relaxed in this location we decided to change our plans from continuing south in the Bahamas and instead planned to return to south Florida. We had left the Florida Keys approximately two months prior and our options for the upcoming winter were to either continue south in the Bahamas, and mostly anchor in the fairly remote Exhuma Islands, or return to south Florida and spend the winter there at a marina. We decided to return to Florida and continue to explore the Bahama Islands from that base area. Our plans are now to sail to the northern Bahama Islands (Abacos, Grand Bahamas, and others) from Florida in the spring and early summer time and then spend most of the hurricane season in our Florida base.

We reversed our course back to Highbourne Cay, then to Nassau, then Bimini, and then to south Florida. We had a great sail back across the



Sunset as we approached Bimini

Bahama Banks and the Gulf Stream. Once again our weather windows were great, with awesome sailing conditions and great weather.

We found a very nice marina in Hollywood, which is just south of Fort Lauderdale. We also plan to spend some of our time in Austin while we have the boat in south Florida. So you will probably see us from time to time around AYC in the coming months. We look forward to seeing our friends in Austin when we are there and also enjoying life on the boat when we are staying on it in Florida. We're planning to try the lifestyle of mixing cruising from our base in south Florida and spending a little time also in Austin to maintain our land roots. We'll see how this works for a while and are looking forward to splitting time between Florida and Texas.

Help Keep Zebra Mussels Out of Lake Travis

by John Saunders

The Zebra mussel is in Lake Waco. In my opinion, that means we will have them in time. Delaying this invasion will help.

Unfortunately, we and other boaters have techniques of handling our boats when we move them around. The "Clean-Drain-Dry" technique is not in our psyche. Questioning our guests who might be from another area is also not in our awareness. I saw a Catalina 25 being launched recently, and did not ask where it was from.

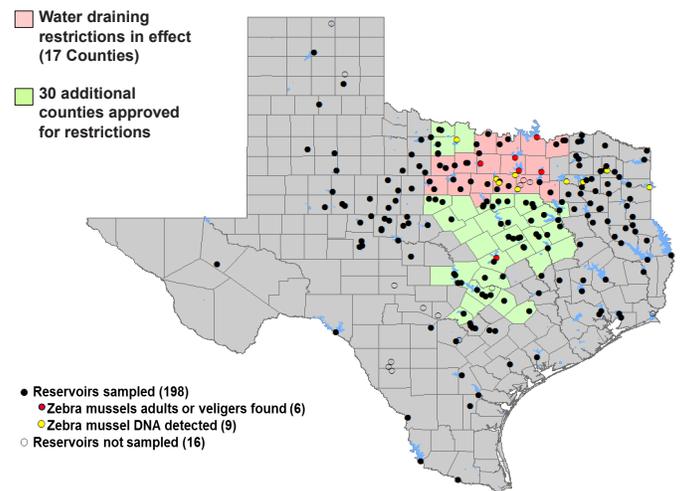
The circuit riders who travel from lake to lake are the most active. Bass Tournaments, Poker Runs and "Sailing Circuits" of all sizes. They will have to be attacked realistically.

In other words, we are not thinking of this problem when we head for the lake with our trailer-able boat. If a club member has a guest with their boat, we do not quiz them as to any Clean-Drain-Dry, etc. We are not proactive simply because the matter is not familiar to us.

Do we have any provisions for the next regatta or circuit in which we may get boats from Dallas or anywhere North? NO!

We need to implant these cautions in our friends' memories in general, so they will question new boats and travelers.

Can we stop this? No. Can we slow it? Maybe.



https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/news_roundup/zebra_mussels/media/zm_drain_law_counties.pdf

How to Add Your Phone Number to the AYC Website

The most requested improvement to our new website is access to AYC member's phone numbers. If you would like a contact phone number to be available to other AYC Members here is the process for adding it to your Member Directory Profile.

The first step is to "Log In". Clicking on the "Member Login" orange bar will bring up the Login screen (fig. 1). The "Username" field will take your email address or your AYC member number.

After logging In, you will see the "Member Menu" on the right (fig. 2). Click on "Member Directory". This will bring up the search screen, with the members profile boxes below. Now you should see this screen that has the Search Users Menu.

Enter your last name in the 'Combined Search' box. Hit the 'enter' key or the Filter button (fig. 3). This should result in your Member Directory Profile box being displayed below. If your last name is one where other members have the same last name, multiple profile boxes will appear. However, since you are person "Logged In", on your own profile box will have the 'Edit Profile' button and "Log Out" button.

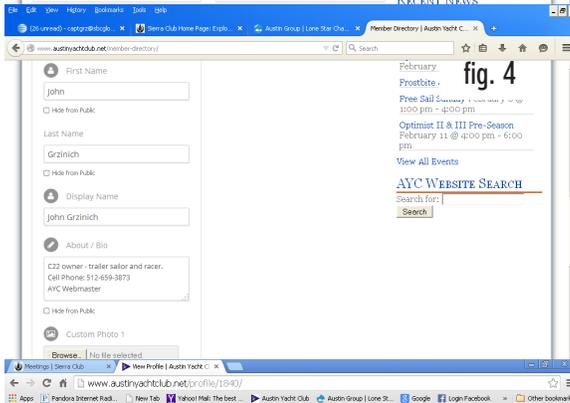
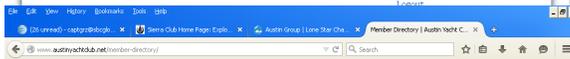
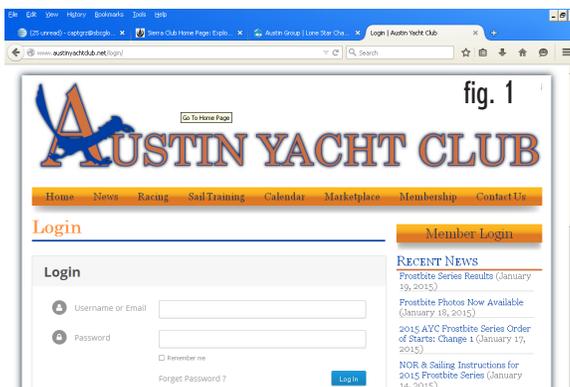
Click on the "Edit Profile" button to display the menu with all the fields in your profile (fig. 4). Clicking on the 'Edit Profile' button will expand the screen downward displaying all the fields in your Member Directory Profile. The "About/Bio" is the place you put in what ever phone number you want to share and make available to other AYC members. You can also put any other information you want to share in that "About/Bio" box like your fleet, boat, want crew, volunteer job at AYC, etc.

Other things you can update on this page – "Display Name" is what will show in the Member Directory profile box. If you have a nickname, for example, that you are known to go by, you may want to put it in that field. You can add a photo of yourself, or your boat, whatever. There are also fields here to change your email address or your password. The password update boxes are all the way at the bottom, so you have to scroll down.

Finally, scroll down to where you see the blue "Update Profile" button. You must click that button to save any changes you have made to your Member Directory Profile. After clicking that button, your screen will go back to Member Directory Search screen.

Now, to find someone's phone number, use the 'Users Search' screen to find them in the member directory. Or, if you don't know how to spell it correctly, you can search using a first name, or scroll through all the member profiles until you find who you are looking for. Once you find their profile box, put the mouse over their name, and click. Their full profile information will appear, as in my profile (fig. 5). If they entered a phone number their profile, it will be there. If not, you can send them an email requesting it by clicking on the email icon. This will redirect you to a screen with your email software.

If you have any questions or problems with this procedure, email webmaster@ustinyachtclub.net. A link to this procedure will be listed in the Member Menu for future reference.



Notes from your GM

by Jackie Wheelless

Have you ever wondered?

- Why do I get emails from the yacht club but my wife/husband doesn't?

ANSWER: The Primary Member should: Log on to the AYC website and go to the MEMBER MENU – open the ADD A FAMILY MEMBER tab – complete the form and submit.

- When I need crew for this weekend's races where do I find them?

ANSWER: Log on to the AYC website, click on the MARKETPLACE tab, click on CLASSIFIED ADS, click on PLACE AN AD, the drop down menu allows you to choose a category – CREW WANTED (hopefully members who want to crew have placed an ad in this section.)

- How do I sign up for a space in the Work Area?

ANSWER: According to the Austin Yacht Club Membership Handbook: "Work area reservations: Reservations for the slab part of the work area must be made through the AYC office. The pad can only be reserved for three weeks at a time, after which it can be reserved for another three weeks. The work area slab is only for boats that are actively being worked on. Boats who exceed their time limit or those who fail to make a reservation with the office may be considered Improperly Stored."

News Around the Club

January was a very busy month around AYC! Members have returned to the club to work on boats and get things ready for the upcoming season (that might be what prompted question #3 above!).

Calin Popescu will hand out \$200 to the holder of the 2015 LUCKY BEER BOTTLE!! The lucky bottle number will be drawn Opening Day – March 8. If you don't have a registered beer bottle yet OR you're not sure that the beer bottle you have is registered – please contact me ASAP at gm@austinyachtclub.net – we have less than 50 bottles left to hand out!! More info to the right.

Fleet Captains – **Kate Noble** and I met with some of the 2015 Fleet Captains in January. We're compiling a list of the current Fleet Captains and assisting them with creating and/or updating their web page on the AYC website. Once the updated list is completed it will be posted on the website as well as on the bulletin boards here at the club. If you're a Fleet Captain and we haven't contacted you, please contact us if you'd like us to post fleet news on the website.

ASA meeting – **Kate** and I met with ASA Instructor **Harry Polly** in January. We've implemented procedures to ensure that ASA inquiries are handled in a much more consistent manner and that the ASA Instructors and AYC Staff are working together to streamline the process. The February 21-22 ASA 101 Course registration is currently on the website.

Damages to the entry fence, rock wall and oak tree – The damages which occurred on November 26 have been repaired. A new chain link fence has been installed at the main entrance and part of the wrought iron fence was repaired. An arborist has examined and evaluated the oak tree which lost

a limb and suffered a deep cut. The arborist reports that the oak tree did not lose significant value. The rock wall that our AYC sign is affixed to also suffered minor damages and has been repaired as well. The total damages were \$2,075.01. The damages totaled less than our \$2,500 deductible; therefore, I'll be pursuing recovery directly from the driver's insurance carrier.

Gate code – all previous codes have been pulled from the gate program and the gate code continues to change monthly. Please make note of the new gate code on your monthly statements and the website under the Member Menu.

Fence Line Clearing – **Tom Cunningham** has been busy clearing brush from the fence line at the AYC entrance. He found all of the poison ivy, too!

Caretaker's Corner

by Tom Cunningham

Please be aware that the two trash dumpsters located on our property – one four-yard dumpster and one eight-yard dumpster – are utilized for trash, debris and brush that are collected throughout the club grounds. The Board of Directors added a four-yard recycling container last year. We are in the process of monitoring the dumpsters in hopes of being able to decrease the one eight-yard container down to a four-yard container now that the recycling has caught on and lessened the amount of trash that AYC disposes of.

CALIN'S AYC LUCKY BEER BOTTLE DRAW

Only 120 beer bottles have been salvaged and labeled during the drought of 2013 on the AYC shores! (Lake Travis 618.65 MSL)

You may be the winner of \$200 at the 2015 AYC Opening 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 to the draw. Only one bottle for each AYC member!
- GOOD LUCK!!



12 Teams – 16 Ports – 325 Days

Guess who's training for one of the toughest endurance challenges on the planet!!

Got this in an email from Linda:

"Clipper Round the World" starts August 30 from England. I am going over April 16 to do my 2nd training class and then will be there on April 25 when they announce the boats we will be on and who will be on them, and then we have a big meeting to begin strategies for the races and other stuff. Two days later will do the 3rd training. The 4th training starts August 3 and I will stay in England until we start. First leg is England to Rio.

It is really fascinating, as they have people who have never been on a boat before, those who have and one professional sailor who has gone through lots of testing in emergency situations, how manage the crew, etc. In our first training of the 11 of us there, five had never been on a boat. It was like freshman summer band with the freshmen learning as fast as possible, the sophomores and juniors (those who had sailed before) learning to adapt to BIG boat equipment and issues and working with the freshman to bring them up to speed, and the two seniors who were the instructors. It was an amazing experience as the 11 were from UK, Germany, France, Switzerland, Scotland and two of us from the states. Doctors, lawyer, financial planner, software consultant, construction project manager, consultant, etc. Great group with ages 24 to 68. Myself and one of the non-sailors will be doing the whole race and the others will be doing one or more legs depending on job issues.

There will be 12 boats racing with 15 to 20 people crewing. We get to do every job on board from helming, putting sails up and down, trimming, cooking (I feel sorry for the group when it is my turn, but trying to learn now), checking engine, cleaning, etc. If it is done on the boat we will get to do it. We race to a port and then stop for a week to 10 days to fix anything broken, resupply the food provisions, have a chance to see some of the area and learn about the country.

The race was started by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, one of the first single-handed around-the-world sailors. This is the 10th edition of the race and will be on a 70-foot ocean racing yacht. This will be the second year they are in use. It has a main, a staysail, storm jib, three yankees, and three asymmetrical spinnakers.

Here is one of their quotes: "This is one of the biggest challenges of the natural world and an endurance test like no other. With no previous sailing experience necessary, it's a record breaking 40,000 nautical mile race around the world on a 70-foot ocean racing yacht. All that is asked of participants is a good level of fitness, an age over 18 – and a thirst for adventure into the unknown. Divided into eight legs and 16 individual races, you can choose to complete the full circumnavigation or select individual legs. Having completed a rigorous training course, participants are suited and booted in the latest extreme protection gear to commence the race of their lives. The sea does not distinguish between Olympians or novices. There is nowhere to hide – if Mother Nature throws down the gauntlet, you must be ready to face the same challenges as the pro racer. Navigate the Doldrums en route to South America, endure epic Southern Ocean storms, experience South African sunsets, face the mountainous seas of the North Pacific – and bond with an international crew creating lifelong memories before returning victorious."

www.clipperroundtheworld.com



Training session number one – MORE TO COME!



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 Wheelless
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
Email submissions by 1st of month to:
ghowiellc@aol.com

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 2014 RACE CALENDAR

Mar 8	Spring Series Race #1	RC: PHRF A	1:30p first signal
Mar 22	Spring Series Race #2	RC: PHRF B	1:30p first signal
Mar 29	Spring Series Race #3	RC: SC21	1:30p first signal

Beer Can Races start April 17.

AYC 2014 NON-RACING EVENTS

Feb 20	Junior Sailing Info/Pizza Party	6:00p Clubhouse
Feb 20	Friday Night Movies	7:00p Clubhouse
Feb 21	Race Management Seminar	10:00a-6:00p Clubhouse
Feb 21-22	ASA 101 Basic Keel Boat Class	8:30a-5:30p Sail Training Room/On the Water
Feb 21-22	ASA Adult Sail Training	8:30a-5:30p Sail Training Room/On the Water
Feb 26	AYC Board of Directors Meeting	7:30p Clubhouse
Feb 27	Friday Night Movies	7:00p Clubhouse
Mar 6	Friday Night Movies	7:00p Clubhouse
Mar 7	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
Mar 8	Opening Day Brunch and Ceremony	10:00a Clubhouse
Mar 13	Friday Night Movies	7:00p Clubhouse
Mar 26	AYC Board of Directors Meeting	7:30p Clubhouse

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



Frostbite!

Photo by Bruce McDonald

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

