

## **Roadrunner Fleet Report**

David Michael, Fleet Captain

### **Roadrunner Sailor Report**

#### **Julius Heitkoetter**

While many students are forced to stay home and endlessly scroll through social media on their phones or watch Youtube video after Youtube video, the Juniors have been able to spend the majority of their days on beautiful Lake Travis. Common fun activities include taking out the now-easily-accessible-on-the-beach Roadrunner catamarans for fun sails and multihull racing; racing lasers and sunfishes on Wednesday nights; racing on J80's; taking much needed swim breaks to escape the heat after boat repairs, rigging, or just for fun; learning how to windsurf and of course hours and hours of practicing on dinghies such as Optis, C420s, and Lasers, all while practicing safe Covid-19 practices such as wearing masks, sailing with family, and keeping distance between individuals.

The Roadrunners also took up kayaking as they ventured out to Starnes Island for a social-distancing-picnic-and-snorkeling-island-adventure!

The Juniors would like to thank the AYC Board for keeping the yacht club open while making sure everyone stays safe, as well as allowing the Juniors to keep a catamaran on the beach.

### **Fort Worth Boat Club Regatta Report**

#### **Julius Heitkoetter**

On June 20th, 8 AYC Roadrunners headed up to Fort Worth Yacht Club along with 80 other sailors from around the state to participate in their first out of town race since Covid-19: the Junior Old Man of the Sea Regatta. While, due to Covid-19, the event looked quite a bit different from previous Texas Youth Circuit regattas, the event still managed to spark excitement, as Roadrunners were able to reconnect with other sailors from around Texas and show off their hard work practicing at home.

After unloading 3 C420's, 2 Optis, and 2 motorboats from their trailers, the Roadrunners quickly rushed to their cars as a giant storm rolled through with 35+ knots of breeze and enough rainfall to send pouring showers throughout the night. However, by their first day of racing the next day, the storm had left, leaving nothing but extremely light wind which resulted in several hours of sitting under AP for all fleets. The next day didn't look much better, as a second wave of isolated thunderstorms rolled through, making it unsafe for the sailors to get on the water.

Even though the weather didn't fully cooperate, the Roadrunners had a great time in Fort Worth. While the Opti RWB line did not get a single race completed,

Roni Sela was able to keep an amazingly positive attitude throughout the whole weekend. Congratulations to **Tony Slowick** and **Ben Crooks**, as well as **Lucy** and **James Brock** for winning 1st and 2nd place on the C420 line and to **Yuval Sela** for dominating in Opti Green.

#### Endless Summer Opti Series

2020 Opti competitive events are being postponed and canceled for now, but the Endless Summer Series is an informal opportunity for Optimist Dinghy Sailors to racing Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. With an average of 10 participants each week, this is proving to be popular event for AYC youth sailing program participants who have completed the Opti 2 training and want to race. These sailors; **Roni** and **Yuval Sela**, **Storie Evans**, **Calvin** and **Jackson Brock**, **Ramzi Matous**, **William Michael**, **Lucas** and **Noah Goras**, and our friend from LCYC **Ryan Mitchell**, are all great sports and supportive of each other. Parents such as **Greg Matous**, **Jeff Brock**, and **Gal Sela** are essential for this volunteer event to happen. It is a good time.

#### Opti Team Racing

A core group of Opti sailors started to learn team racing! after advancing within the AYC youth program to the Opti 3 level, and getting some experience competing in TSA regattas. **Roni & Yuval Sela**, **Ramzi Matous**, **Calvin & Jackson Brock**, and **William Michael** have developed the sailing skills, and knowledge of race rules to do this. Informally practicing team racing together like this is preparing these sailors to be competitive in future National USODA Team Racing events. A huge thanks to Parent **Jeff Brock** for begin teaching these kids this new favorite activity our Opti sailors.

#### Informal Laser & Sunfish Racing

2020 Laser and Sunfish competitive events are being postponed and canceled for now, but Roadrunner fleet Laser & Sunfish sailors are able to keep racing by participating in the Informal Wednesday Evening Laser & Sunfish Series. **Fiona Froelich**, **Wendi Froelich** and **Ethan Froelich**, **Lucy Brock** and **James Brock**, **Julius Heitkoetter** and **Vivian Heitkoetter**, and former Roadrunner sailor **Andrew Butler** are all out participating in the series, some racing Lasers or Sunfish for the first time!

#### Informal C420 Racing

2020 season's C420 competitive events are being postponed or cancelled for now, but the C420 fleet is staying in practice. It is not unusual to see informal C420 match races between **Julius & Vivian Heitkoetter** and **Lucy & James Brock** out on the lake.

#### Multihull Performance Sailing

The Roadrunner fleet youth are fully embracing the opportunity to have two multi-hull performance racing boats to train on this summer. Both the F18 and the Prindle are used every day that there is the slightest gust of wind, including

informal multi-hull fleet racing. Volunteer **Jim Casto**, Parent **Gal Sela**, and Roadrunner sailors **Ethan Froelich** and **Julius Heitkoetter** have stayed busy maintaining the boats due to the heavy use by all the Roadrunners, big and small. Opti Sailor **William Michael** has now achieved a life goal of helming a catamaran while hiking in a harness, with the tiller in one hand and the mainsheet in the other.

#### Roadrunner Car Wash Fundraiser

##### **Constanze Heitkoetter**

Every Friday in July from 5:30pm to around 8:00pm, you have been seeing Roadrunner sailors hard at work - not on the water, but on the parking lot in front of the AYC office. Water is still involved, as they wash and dry cars of AYC members for \$10 cash or member charge. Their service has been very well received. Social distancing, wearing of a mask/buff, adult supervision and professional cleaning tools are ensured.

Thank you for supporting our youth!