



2018 Opening Day Tribute



AYC Commodores Past and Present *Photo credit Deborah Mathison*

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SAVE THE DATE

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Apr 7-8 | Governor's Cup | May 5-6 | Turnback Canyon Regatta |
| Apr 13-15 | Sea Scouts Sometimes Island Sail | May 11-13 | J/22 SW District Circuit Stop |
| Apr 13, 20, 27 | Beer Can Races | May 12 | ASA 101 Training |
| Apr 14 | ASA 101 Training | May 19 | Learn to Sail Clinic |
| Apr 15, 22, 29 | Late Spring Series Races | May 19 | Sail 4 Kids |
| Apr 26 | Board of Directors Meeting | May 20 | Late Spring #4 |
| Apr 28 | Women's Clinic | May 20 | Chaparral de Mar |
| Apr 28-29 | TX State HS Championship | May 24 | Board of Directors Meeting |
| May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | Laser/Sunfish Racing | May 25 | MoonBurn Series Race |
| May 4, 11, 18 | Beer Can Races | May 26 | Luau |

GOVERNOR'S CUP REGATTA

Austin Yacht Club - April 7-8th 2018



2017 Governor's Cup Photo by Bill Records

From The Commodore

by Bill Records



Opening Day

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Kenneth Graham

When I looked over the gathering of members, former members, commodores and guests on Opening Day, I realized this quote describes us perfectly! We would rather participate in our sport than watch someone else do it on TV. As we

heard from founding father, **Tom Romberg**, some of the original members actually built the boats they "messed about in". Another thing I observed is the increased number of young families who have joined the Club. Also in attendance were grandchildren of long time members. In a way, our Club is a family, caring about each other as we care about sailing.

AYC Talent

At the recent U.S. Sailing Leadership Forum, there was a discussion about the benefits of hiring experts outside the clubs to come and teach various aspects of sailing. This obviously costs money, making it difficult for smaller clubs with limited budgets. The Austin Yacht Club is blessed with a lot of talented members who are willing to share their knowledge and skills. Sail Training Commander, **Carolyn Wilsford**, has reached out to these sailors and produced excellent and well attended clinics.



John Bartlett Spin Clinic Photo credit Bill Records

So far, these sailors include **Ravi Subramanian, John Bartlett, Scott Young, John Morran, Natalie Penner, Doug Kern, and Matt Romberg. Jeff Brock and Stefan Froelich** have spent countless hours traveling with and coaching our junior sailors. And kudos go to Sailing Director **Coleman Terrell**, who essentially runs our sailing school and spends hours on the water, rain or shine, teaching the kids. We all need to realize how fortunate we are to have these exceptional sailors helping us. Thank them whenever you can.

Chappaquiddick

Recently my involvement in the TV and Film industry came together with my love for sailing. A couple of years ago, a friend who is a screenplay writer, called me about a project he was working on. He was writing a screenplay about the Chappaquiddick incident involving Senator Ted Kennedy. There was

a scene in the script involving a regatta in which the Senator had raced. The writer, not being a sailor, asked for my help writing the scene. I immediately invited him out to race and went to work on the script. This fall, he called me and said the film was finished and was picked up for distribution. It premiered at the Austin Film Festival and will be in theaters soon. If you see the film, look for the sloppy spinnaker take down in the regatta scene.

From The Vice Commodore

by Annie Lancaster



I found the following on the Austin Yacht Club website, under the Membership Information tab...

"AYC members are our biggest asset and the Club has a long tradition of volunteerism. This spirit strengthens AYC's sense of community and keeps membership affordable. Whether it is a Club Work Party, a Series Race, a Club Regatta or one of the Club's numerous social gatherings, our members are always willing to pitch in to make it a great event - to ensure all feel welcome and leave with great memories."

Volunteering at AYC is a great tradition. We require probationary members to get 15 points of volunteering to become members. That requirement is to instill the attitude of volunteerism, not just for the first year, but for the term of their memberships.

So here comes the question ... when was the last time you volunteered?

I have heard it said that 80% of the work of a volunteer community comes from 20% of its members. Let's be the exception to that rule. AYC has lots of opportunities for volunteering. And don't worry, you can't get fired. There are regattas, race committee, social events, administration, and more. Contact your board members, fleet captains or our general manager for information.

Here are examples of volunteerism in action...

- 1) We had a successful and fun time at the Work Days on February 18 and March 17. The grounds look great and lots of projects were completed.
- 2) Preparations for the Governor's Cup Regatta, April 7-8, are underway thanks to **Chris Thompson** and his team of volunteers. Check the website or contact **Chris** to find out how you can help... in many cases you still get to sail!
- 3) **Steve Ward** is making plans for the Turnback Canyon Regatta on May 5-6. We are joining up with Lago Fest to have great fun in Lago Vista on Saturday evening. There will be a celebration back at AYC on Sunday.
- 4) Sail training is busy with clinics that are always looking for volunteers, and you can always participate.
- 5) Besides after-the-races snacks, end-of-series dinners and mid-series events, **Margo Bower, Pat Manning and the social committee** are planning the Luau on the Saturday, May 26 of Memorial Day weekend. **Margo and Pat** need your help! (Check out the "help wanted" ad in this issue of the Telltale.)

So come on out and sail and volunteer... Many hands make light work and more fun!

Race Commander Report

by Jim Casto



By the time you read this, Spring Series will be over. In the 4 races so far, we experienced wide variation in both participation and weather. We had a high turnout of 45 boats, but on March 11th, when it was very windy, only 16 boats went out. After 4 races, we have had a total of 68 different participants. Light air on two weekends already caused postponement, courses to be shortened and the 2nd race not run at all. RC on those days handled

this very well. However, we've now had 3 reports of issues with fuel on Chase Boat 2, so we'll be addressing that.

PRC work items for coming months include placing the new marks A, J or X marks in the lake. And we'll apply to renew our permit with LCRA for our marks. We will also be buying a 2nd iPad, since we are very reliant on the data collection, and really need to have a backup.

AYC has several regattas coming up, please consider volunteering to help if you are not racing in them. Or do both!!

Unfortunately the next Club racing Series does not have the benefit of completely sequential dates, as we did for Frostbite and for Spring Series. The "Late Spring" Series is April 15, 22, 29; then we have a gap until the 4th and last race on May 20th. I anticipate being able to post the NOR for Late Spring Series right after Governor's Cup Regatta. I don't anticipate a lot of changes, but PRC is reviewing a couple of ideas, always with the goal of improving the quality of racing, and providing opportunities for more folks to race.

Questions or concerns? Email me at race_commander@austinyachtclub.net

Building & Grounds Update

by Diane Covert



We had a very successful volunteer work day on St. Patrick's day. Volunteers **Ray Shull, Charlie Lancaster, John Maddalozzo, Joe Peacock, Kurt Carson, Heath Phillips and Tom Cunningham** cut up and removed the abandoned fishing boat left on the point. This was a huge job since the boat was filled with sand, rotten and couldn't be towed.

Volunteers and new members **Dan Denissen, Duke and Kim Snyder along with Mark Zion, and Jeremy**

Peters installed new heavy duty shower curtain rods and privacy doors to the shower area in the restrooms.

A big thanks to new member **Dallas Grant** for replacing the old 4' fluorescent light, and installing a track light over the kitchen counter for Opening Day.

Future projects include:

- Replacing the mirrors in the bathhouse with new mirrors and installing new lighting.
- Repairing support posts on the railing for the pool.
- Replacing the water fountain in the clubhouse with a new bottle filling,

drinking fountain and hopefully relocating the old fountain downstairs near the ice machine.

- Replacing the couches in the clubhouse with a new teak loveseat, 2 chairs with sunbrella fabric and a coffee table.
- Removing the mesh on the lake side exterior of the clubhouse.

Please plan to participate on these dates: May 19th, June 16th, Sep 15th. These dates are subject to change; however, we will try and stick to them. Many dates are scheduled a week before major events at the Club so we can "spruce it up".

If you would like to be on the B&G committee, or have questions, please contact me at: buildings_grounds@austinyachtclub.net. You don't have to be on the committee to join us on any Saturday work day.



Removal of abandoned fishing boat from the Point Photo submitted by Diane Covert



Sprucing up the grounds Photo credit Bill Records

Harbor Report by Dane Ohe



Lake Travis is currently about 3-1/2 feet above the level that would require a dock move, and has held steady. LCRA is projecting a level of 665 around the first of May, which is the level that would trigger a dock move. We are keeping an eye on the levels and will make a decision on when to move docks in the next several weeks.

Due to the shallow water areas around the harbor we have installed shallow water warning markers

to indicate the edges of the shallows, especially to the east of the North Ramp. These shallow water markers are made of PC and the tops are painted fluorescent orange on top. They are 8 feet long and we tried to put them in 6 feet or so of water, so whatever the length is out of the water, subtract that from 8 to get the depth at the mark. The marks will be moved as the level fluctuates to keep marking the shallows.

The handrails for the stairs to Docks 2 and 4 have been completed. We are still working to schedule the next dock projects, and will let you know via email and the Telltale when these projects get started.

Welcome New Members!



Aaron McCulley (Senior Probationary)

Aaron is an avid multihull racer. He has raced the local circuit for years and knows many of our Club's multihull members.



Cheryl Stanton (Associate Probationary)

Cheryl got started sailing in Australia where she worked at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. While there, she raced in numerous events. Cheryl is anxious to race again and be part of our community or sailors.



Nathan Gantala (Junior)

Nathan began sailing at AYC in the high school program last fall, and wants to get more involved. He has also already raced a 420 at a TSA event.



Verson Pandian (Associate Probationary)

Verson is a retired engineer with experience in aviation and scuba diving. He raced Lightnings for many years and has substantial experience sailing in the Caribbean, South Pacific and Mediterranean. He is very excited to volunteer at the Club and meet other sailors.



Geoffery & Marilyn Jackson (Senior Probationary)

Geoffery and Marilyn have crewed for several years on AYC boats. They already know many of our members. They have participated in numerous racing clinics at the Club and are now ready to become members.

Sail Training Report

by Carolyn Wilsford



March has set the bar for learning!!! Now it's practice, practice, practice. I hope you all have been enjoying hearing from our Club experts: **Brad Davis, John Morran, Scott Young, Matt Romberg and Natalie Penner Hardin.**

Here is what one of our experts, **Natalie Penner Hardin**, noticed about our participants: 😊

Carolyn: I thought the clinic went really well. It is hard to speak from my end, but I saw lightbulbs going off on the water and off the water during an informal debrief. I want to thank everyone who participated and hope we will have larger groups with a few more boats to practice starts next time.



Natalie Penner Start Clinic *Photo credit Bill Records*

Every time I am on the water racing it is a learning experience. I do not claim to know everything, no one does, but I enjoyed sharing the knowledge I have acquired by sailing with and against the best sailors in the world.

Big thanks to AYCF for putting up a clinic, and to my husband as well as Dave Broadway, Kurt and Jorge from J/24 fleet for facilitating!

Natalie

Upcoming Clinics

Next is the Women's Clinic, starting Friday, April 27th 6:00 p.m. during a Beer Can Race. Our very own Commodore, **Bill Records**, will be cooking fajitas for us ladies. 😊 Anyone coming from afar can stay in a cabin and embrace the serenity of Lake Travis in the early morning before the clinic starts at 9:00 a.m. April 28th.

This year's chair, **Nancy Clarke**, is busy with many plans and I can't wait to hear them. Please keep an eye out for the flyer!

Happy sailing!



Spin Clinic *Photo credit Bill Records*



US Sailing Level 1 *Photo credit Bill Records*



October 2017 Women's Clinic *Photo credit Cheryl Pervier*

From the AYC General Manager by Jackie Wheelless



Here's the latest:

- I've been working with our accountant, **Lynn Weir**, and the AYC Finance Committee (Treasurer's Advisory Committee) to get information compiled and sent to National Realty so they can file our 2017 Business Personal Property Rendition report which is due by April 15th.

The rendition report is our written report to the Travis Central Appraisal District which provides the appraisal district with the description, location, cost and acquisition dates for personal property that we own. The appraisal district uses the information to help estimate the market value of our property for taxation purposes.

- With the property rendition information submitted, it's time to review the current property and liability coverage and exposure for changes/updates. I'm working with our customer service rep at Anco to get information to them so they can provide a quote for our renewal in May.
- The 2018 Committee and Fleet Captain listings are now on the website!
- PLEASE keep all of the doors to the clubhouse CLOSED...the birds are once again migrating in and nesting in the beams.
- As promised, the gate clicker code will change in April, the targeted date for the change is WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11TH. I'll send out several emails to keep reminding everyone that at 9:00AM on April 11th you will NOT be able to open the security gate if you have not changed your clicker code.
- I plan to place an order by April 1st for the plastic Member ID cards. Please let me know if you're in need of a replacement card or if you've never received one.

Sailing Director Report by Coleman Terrell



The spring sailing season of the Junior Sailing Program is off to a great start! We have 51 sailors participating in various classes, including 24 in the high school program.

On March 24/25, UT hosted the McCarthy Cup, which is an open team racing regatta. AYC fielded two high school teams, one from Lake Travis High School and one made up of high school sailors from various

schools. Colleges came to town as well, and it was a great weekend!

Sail Training has been busy so far, acquiring 4 new Laser Picos, selling our four old Laser Picos, and purchasing a second RIB for coaching as well as a floating dock for it to sit on. This is very important for the program, since our Picos were old and needed replacing. These new Picos have quite a few improvements in their rigging and parts and are fun to sail. Come out to Free Sail Sunday and see for yourself!

Speaking of Free Sail, please check the AYC Calendar to make sure that Free Sail is scheduled for the date you would like to come. If it is on the schedule, then it is happening unless there is an email sent out by 11:00 AM Sunday mornings

stating otherwise. The only reason I cancel Free Sail this way is due to weather. PB&J Sailing and Summer Camp registrations are up, with links on the AYC website. Please call or email the AYC Office to receive your coupon code for member pricing.

We've also hosted quite a few clinics so far, with the Spinnaker Clinic, Racing Rules Clinic, Learn-to-Race Clinic, Start Clinic, and Junior Sailing Clinic all taking place. This is shaping up to be a very good year at AYC.

Social Committee News by Margo Bower and Pat Manning



Opening Day

It was a dark and stormy night.....Oops! that was the book I was reading before falling asleep on the eve of Opening Day,

Upon waking to rain, a few claps of thunder and Jim Spencer announcing on my cell phone that lightning had been detected in our area, I was feeling a little anxious about the success of our much anticipated Opening Day festivities.



Opening Day Volunteers L-R: Pat Manning, Margo Bower, Kim Miller and Chris Bataille

As we arrived at the Club, the rain started to subside and the skies began clearing. The Club was beautifully decorated with fresh linens, colorful flower arrangements, balloons and paper lanterns, all thanks to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly for several days prior to the event. With the food delivered, coffee made, Bloody Mary's and Mimosas flowing, the event had begun.

It turned out to be a beautiful day! Everyone had a great time socializing, sailing, and raising our glasses in remembrance to those who had passed and left behind some great stories to share with each other.

We'd like to give special thanks to volunteer **Kim Miller**, head designer at Flowers by Nancy Too, for the lovely floral arrangements. Also a special thanks to **John and Claudia Bartlett** for serving delicious Bloody Mary's and Mimosas. To all our volunteers ... we appreciate your help and couldn't have done it without you!

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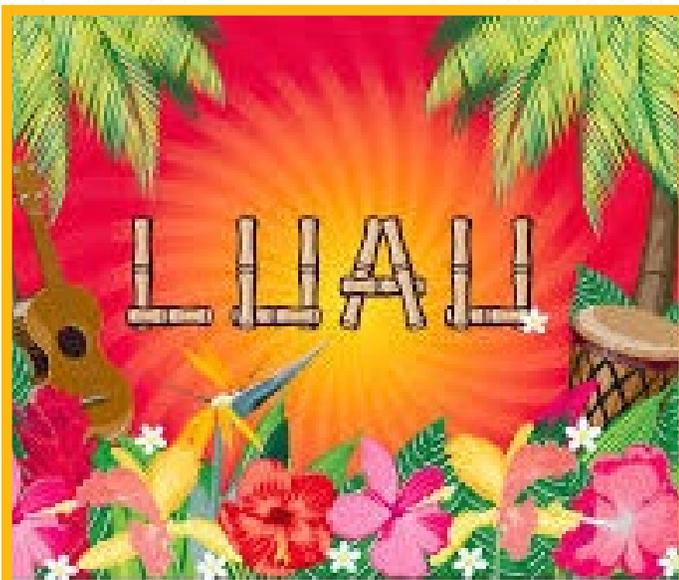
Spring Forward!

That's what we did after our successful Opening Day Banquet and Ceremony.

The next two Sundays we served hot and cold appetizers and re-purposed the frozen entrees that were left over from previous events. Keeping with the St. Patrick's theme banquet held on March 18th (St. Patrick's Hangover Day), we served a delicious corned beef and cabbage dish prepared by Pat and accompanied by a mixture of potatoes, soda bread, and a lime sorbet dessert topped off with a shamrock cookie.

We hosted an Italian night for the End of Series, featuring baked ziti served with Caesar salad, garlic bread and a limoncello pie topped with fresh berries for dessert. We hope you all enjoyed the tableside Sicilian serenading and the gondola rides on the lake wait, I'm confused....that was in Italy!

After our two-week break we will look forward to seeing you back at the clubhouse for great friends, food, spirits and perfect weather for sailing!



May 26 AYC Luau Volunteer Positions Open

The AYC Social Committee is looking to fill the following volunteer positions:

Luau Committee Chair
Invitations
Decorations
Entertainment
Food and Drink
Advertising
Volunteers

Margo and Pat will provide consulting and support.

If you are interested in a fun volunteer opportunity (probationary members!)

please email Margo Bower hairslair@gmail.com

Pat Manning pmbokkeeping@aff.net

AYC Opening Day



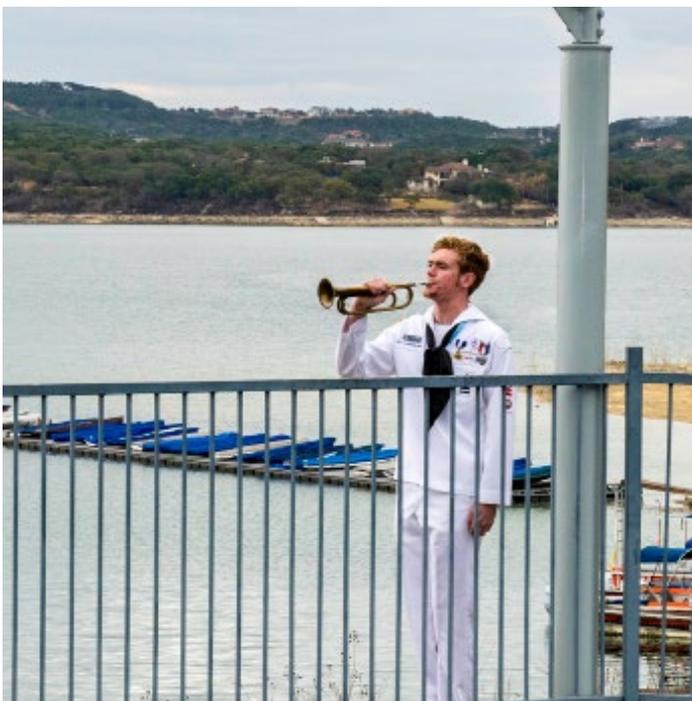
Opening Day Photos by Deborah Mathison

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AYC Opening Day



Opening Day Photos by Deborah Mathison



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AYC Opening Day



Opening Day Photos by Deborah Mathison



AYC Opening Day



Opening Day Photos by Deborah Mathison



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AYC Opening Day



Opening Day Photos by Cheryl Pervier



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AYC Opening Day



Opening Day Photos by Cheryl Pervier



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AYC Opening Day



Opening Day Photos by Anne Morley



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AYC Opening Day



Opening Day Photos by Anne Morley



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Opening Day/Spring Series #1



Spring Series #1 Photos by Bruce McDonald



Opening Day/Spring Series #1



Spring Series #1 Photos by Bruce McDonald



Spring Series #2



Spring Series #2 Photos by Anne Morley



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Spring Series #2



Spring Series #2 Photos by Anne Morley



Spring Series #2 Photos by Anne Morley



Laser Fleet Update

by Fred Schroth



Will miracles never cease? We had an organizational meeting and lots of folks showed up and volunteered. Others called and volunteered. In fact **Steve Keckler** didn't make it so we elected him fleet captain. He is now officially stuck writing these articles for a while!!

Kevin Reynolds stopped by and agreed to set up the Sign Up Genius for our Wednesday

night RC duties. **Gray Rackley** was volunteered by **Claude** to be the RC pesterer. His job is to whine a lot if nobody has signed up a few weeks ahead. **Gray** will not be available much until kickball season ends so we have to act like adults and sign up for May RC duty all on our own.

There will be a warm up / get-together / extra excuse for abandoning life's responsibilities on April 25. Wednesday racing officially starts the following week. We will consider going boat riding but the real plan is to go eat dinner somewhere and make certain we have RC volunteers for all of May.

The No Coast Championships will be at Corinthian YC on White Rock May 19-20. We are going. Lots of us are going! The lake is simply made for Austin Wednesday nighters. In fact, our winds are much more steady and our waves are bigger.

On June 30 through July 3 the US Laser Nationals will be held in Houston. Our fleet is also sending a huge contingent to Houston.

And if you were reading this hoping to find results for the Easter Laser Regatta?? Well There is this thing about paper publications and lead times. As I write this I am sitting in an office with seven giant bags of tremendous traditional Easter Laser Regatta trophies and a cat. The cat is not one of the trophies.



J/24 Update

by Stu Juengst



Two J/24s from AYC (**Natalie Hardin's** Giggles and **John Parker's** Chupa Cabra) attended the Midwinter Championships in Miami, Florida.

The event was hosted by Shake-A-Leg Miami, a non-profit sailing organization, and it attracted a fleet of 35 boats.

Natalie got off to a great start with a bullet in the first race. Team Giggles finished 13th after 8 races on beautiful Biscayne Bay. Team Chupa Cabra gained lots of valuable experience and had a great time, finishing 32nd.



Midwinters Photo credit Tim Wilke (above) and Christopher Howell (below)



In local racing, Team Vang Go leads the Spring Series but will miss the last weekend to go to the first stop of the 2018 Texas Circuit, opening the door for **Chris Renner** and Team 69 to advance if they perform well and enough boats show up! We had 7 J/24s on the line for Spring Series #4, an up-and-down race with lots of lead changes. Vang Go led the race twice, only to sail into a wind hole. Visiting skipper **Graham Marshall** managed to find some fresh breeze on the last 1/2 leg to pass us and take the horn.

Giggles, **David Broadway's** Superman, and Vang Go are packed up and ready to travel to Corpus Christi this weekend for the Surfin' Safari, the first stop of our Circuit.

B Fleet Update

by Andrea Lesh



The Spring Series is off to a great start. Thank you to **Dane Ohe, John Thurston, John Maddalozzo, Larry Ratliff, Bill Boas, Rachel Bailey, and Kurt Gustafson** for making sure Spring Series #2 went smoothly! It was a great day on the water with plenty of wind, and all the starts went off without a hitch.

The Spring Series will be close for the B-Fleet, between **Dane Ohe** (Pearson 31) and **John Thurston** (Ross 830). The stakes are high for the final 3/25 race!

The B-Fleet enjoyed the great instruction provided at **John Bartlett's** Spinnaker Clinic, the Start Clinic, and Opening Day was superb. Thank you to everyone who made those events such a success.

We are looking forward to the Governor's Cup on April 7th-8th, and the starting of the Beer Can Races Friday, April 13th.

The B-Fleet's next Race Committee duty is April 29th (Late Spring Series #3). We look forward to seeing everyone on the water!



B-Fleet rocks RC

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Catalina 22 Update

by Steve Pervier



Spring Series began on Opening Day, 2/25, with spotty wind. But thanks to A-Fleet RC we got a race in after an hour delay. We had a battle downwind with **James and Lizette**, trying to avoid being blanketed on one hand, or sailing out of the wind on the other. Good tactics and steering, **Lizette!** Then we found a cloud of boats parked at L mark. What a mess, and no joy for an inside boat! We steered to sail around the outside, passing Ensigns and a J/22 (who started 5 and 10 minutes ahead of us). On our starboard side were two J/24s, far to leeward. Eventually the wind came to us so we could leave L mark and finish the race.

A week later, wind shifts and broken clouds foretold showers to come, and B-Fleet ran good races with plenty of wind. **James and Sarah** were there to race together for the first time. We finished our W1 just behind the last Ensigns as they started their second lap. A little later, Coyoacan was tacking for the finish line, dodging A-boats in their second race pre-start, and answering "We're racing!" with "So are we!" In our second race we had fun with a port tack start, then found lighter wind and a much longer race. On the radio we heard questions of how many of our boats had rounded. Maybe I could paint a different color on each side?

Then on 3/11 we sprang forward to a long expected windy day. RC considered canceling, but they studied carefully and decided to go ahead. C22s didn't race but saw interesting things. Two bare poles trimarans were heeling at the dock, which had blown sideways to the middle of the south ramp. It was a team effort to put those boats back onto trailers, some of us pulling the dock cable sideways, others wading, and sometimes a sailor hiking out to level the boat before loading. A-fleet boats were sometimes knocked down going to weather, then they flew downwind with amazing speed. We also saw Chase 2 towed in from the leeward mark. Nicely done, C-Fleet!

On 3/18 it was our turn, a C22+SC21 race committee with disappearing wind. **Tom Meyer** served again as PRO, with **Bob and James** on deck, **Louise, Kim and Cheryl** on the stern. **Walter** drove Chase 2 so **Janette and Steve** could prepare the W mark. After setting and moving that mark, and waiting to set the finish pin, our engine quit. Problem re-confirmed! After changing boats we went to finish B/C boats at D mark, while **Heath and Duke** did the same upwind, all operable RC boats being occupied at once. We were delighted when the last two Pearson 26s made the time limit, less than two minutes to spare and just seconds apart. Then the rain came in big drops!

As of this writing, there's a last Spring Series race to go. Then soon we'll see the Easter Laser Regatta, Governor's Cup (and Beer Can races which start on 4/13) followed by Late Spring Series starting 4/15. It's a packed schedule, since this is a great time of year to sail.

Come and play with us, then let's tell more stories afterwards!

A Fleet Update by Bruce McDonald



Keel Fleet A had race committee duty the first race of the Spring Series. Light, shifty and variable winds made for a challenge setting the course and getting a race off. Persistence paid off and gave the competitors an equally challenging time getting around the course including a 22 boat pinwheel around the leeward mark.

Our first race day of the spring season saw a turnout of nine boats for shifty north winds. **Ray Shull** took first place in both races. The next weekend arrived with punishing winds in the high twenties, gusting at times to forty knots. Six intrepid crews took up the challenge. All managed to finish, although the toll in broken equipment and bruised crew was significant. On the 70, we got to see a carbon fiber jib block explode under load. Some great downwind sleigh rides and a few dramatic broaches added to the excitement. After the race, **John Burke**, the first-place winner for the day enjoyed showing off his top speed of 21.5 knots on his race tracking software. **Claude Welles** pulled into the lead for the series with two second place finishes.

The third race day (what a difference a week makes), was a different story with light shifty winds from the south. The lead changed many times and we had a and interesting mark rounding with the entire ensign fleet and A-fleet competing for pole positions. No race results yet, as the scoring is not posted as we go to press, but it looks as though the entire J80 fleet will occupy the top 8 positions once again. First is still up for grabs as we go into the last race with four J80s in top contention.



Spring Series mark rounding Photo by Bob Leonard

Ensign Fleet Update by Tom Groll



With the Spring Series behind us and summer creeping in, the Ensign Fleet continues to make a strong showing at the Club and on the water. Although our Late Spring Series will be a bit fragmented between having RC duty and hosting the Chaparral de Mar, it is rare not to see some Ensigns out sailing and even rarer that the Ensign Fleet members are not contributing to the success of the many events held at AYC.

Sail 4 Kids, which seems to be developing into a tradition, will be held at the Club on Saturday, May 19th. This is a very special event hosted by the esteemed **Doug Laws** with the very capable assistance of **Fred Ford**. Last year there were about 40 underprivileged children from the Baptist Children's Home ranging in age from 6 to 16 that were all given the opportunity to enjoy a ride on a sailboat followed by some swimming and a cookout. A very special thank you to **Doug and Fred** for making this event possible.

Also coming up in May is the annual Chaparral de Mar regatta. This is also becoming quite the tradition hosted by the Ensign Fleet as a way of honoring those of our senior members that still have the racing spirit but may not necessarily have that many opportunities to get in the race. The format developed by **Danny Lien and Fred Ford** pairs skippers with crew on an Ensign for a day of racing on the final day of the Summer Series. There are two categories of competitors: the junior class is comprised of skippers between the ages of 70-74, and the senior class is for all skippers age 75 and up. While only the senior class of skippers is eligible to win the perpetual trophy, the junior class winning skipper may win a bottle of wine. Regardless of age, all participating skippers win our thanks and admiration for their continued love of our sport. Thank you to **Danny and Fred** for making this event happen!

Our next regular series is the late Spring Series. Ensigns have RC duty for Race #1 on April 15th followed by two consecutive weeks of racing then two weeks off for Turnback Canyon and a J/22 Circuit stop. The Series ends on May 20th with the Chaparral de Mar regatta.

And speaking of evening sails and cool beverages, the Friday Night Beer Can Races are ongoing throughout the summer. I can think of no better way to wash away the remnants of the work week than the casual setting of the Beer Can Race. The Keel Handicap fleet will occasionally be holding the MoonBurn Regatta around the time of the full moon each month, which means that they do not plan to provide the usual burgers and such on those evenings. But that should not dissuade us from sailing the Beer Can! There is a movement for those who choose not to participate in the Moon Burn to still enjoy a loop around the Beer Can course followed by our own informal gathering afterwards. Even if the KHF will not give up their top secret recipe for burgers I'll bet we can come up with something at least as appetizing. . .

Roadrunner Fleet Update

by Constanze Heitkoetter



TSA Spring Fling Regatta at LCYC

AYC was well represented at the TSA Spring Fling Regatta at Lake Canyon Yacht Club on March 17-18. AYC was the second largest team, sending 15 Roadrunners to a great regatta of 68 youth sailors from across the state. Our Roadrunners earned top ranks in every fleet:

First place in C420s for **Lucy Brock and Julius Heitkoetter**, 1st place Laser 4.7 for **Richie Amato**, 1st place Laser Radial for **Ethan Froelich**, 1st place in Opti Blue for **James Brock**, 1st place in Opti Red for **Tony Slowik**, and 2nd place in Opti White for **Catherine Froelich**.

Congratulations! All results and great photos of a fun-filled weekend of youth racing and family camping are on the TSA website at txsail.org.

This year – and going forward – LCYC is promoting “Clean-Regatta” goals, incorporating sustainable practices in all phases

of our regattas and activities. All sailors were encouraged to use their individual Spring Fling refillable water bottles instead of single-use plastic water bottles, to help to “Turn the Tide on Plastics”. Check out more about sustainable practices through the UN Clean Seas global campaign, promoters of the Volvo Ocean Race team Turn the Tide on Plastics; and the program “Sailors for the Sea”.



High School Sailing

The Spring season for the growing high school sailing program is off to a great start, with practices on Tuesday and Friday evenings. A team from Lake Travis High School as well as combined teams from the Austin area are competing in the McCarthy Team Race Regatta at AYC on March 24-25. More info about the Lake Travis High School sailing team on www.lthssailing.com.



C Fleet Update

by Andre de la Reza



C fleet has been out making the most of the dregs of spring. Rising temperatures and dropping winds have not kept us down. In fact, one race committee member was overhead saying that C Fleet had some of the busiest and most competitive starts they have ever seen!

Spring series has seen 9-12 boats on the line each race, with some very tight finishes. Battling for the podium this series is: Cafe Au Lait with 7 pts for the series, Slip Kid, Enthos



Café au Lait battling for the podium Photo by Bruce McDonald

both tied at 8 and Banshee with 10 pts. All within 3 points of each other makes the EOS race (occurring the weekend after this edition has been sent to print) a make or break one for the leaders.

Slip Kid looked to have race 4 in the bag after a strong upwind leg, but the downwind had him plagued by wind holes, and the fleet compressed and overtook him. A shortened course (suggested by Chase 3? Chase 1? It was never clear on the radio... not that we were listening) let **Hector Lujan's** Banshee glide by the fleet and take line honors and the race.

Not all fun is to be had by them. **Anthony Yen's** Tacking Tiger Jibbing Dragon had a breakout opening race finishing 4th and showing that you should never turn your back on Tigers or Dragons! **David Weeks' Not Registered (David, is that really her name??)** flew his brand new spinnaker (a striking orange and black sail one designed by **Bartlett**) and seeming to find winds even when there wasn't much there.

The Race Start clinic was well attended by C-fleet, with Broken Arrow even forcing a J80 over early in one of the practice starts! Way to show those guys **Ed!**

Here's hoping the winds stay with us for a few more months!

SPECIAL REPORT: Two and a Half Days Southward

by Andre de la Reza



The sun was starting to show her face and the sounds of Tampa waking up were around us as we cast off the lines and started to motor Blue Heron into the shipping channel behind Davis Island, Florida. As serene as the morning light was, my heart was racing with excitement.

We were heading towards the start line of the historic St. Petersburg to Habana race; a 285 mile long distance race that started in 1930 with schooners racing each other south to the thriving island city. After 50 years of being suspended due to the embargo, the race was resurrected last year to the thrill of over 70 racers. Blue Heron's skipper, **Russ Hoadly** (Davis Island Yacht Club) was one of the many second generation families partaking in the race. Nature asserted her dominance over the will of man that year, with 57 out of 77 boats failing to complete the race due to heavy storms in the storied Florida Straights.

This year, **Russ** was coming back with an aim of not only finishing, but placing as well. He reached out to his old New Orleans' friend **Steve Ward** (Austin Yacht Club) who signed on and sold the help of fellow Lake Travis racer, **Andre de la Reza** (Austin Yacht Club) as Spanish speaker and medic. **Russ** rounded out the crew with two local Tampa friends **Scott Carroll and Jerry King**. **Russ** admits that he was unsure of how a crew that had never sailed together would do, but he was excited to head south and tune as we went.

Russ has over 70,000 miles of long distance ocean racing and cruising under his belt, but only 3,500 on Blue Heron, a brand new Catalina 425 (Sail number 1!). **Russ** was still fine tuning the boat in hopes of earning a first place finish. The Blue Heron is a beautiful 43' LOA, 19,000 lb Cruiser/Racer with three luxurious cabins and a decked out galley that almost made us forget we were on a long distance race instead of a cruise. The PHRF rate of 134, made her fourth of the eight boats racing in her fleet.

All of my prior experience has been lake racing – consisting of furious windward sprints, dozens of tacks, downwind runs – where every second counts and one mistake can spell a loss. Long distance racing is a beast of a different color. Over the next two and a half days, we *may* have tacked as much as one typical three hour race on the lake, but it was no less intense.

The Monday that started the race was dominated by light winds and mild seas, it was a day of near constant tweaking of sail trims and dodging of crab

pots as we beat out of Tampa bay and into the Gulf. As we reached south down the west coast of Florida, we were escorted for a while by a pod of five dolphins that had spirits high. We ate dinner as the sun set and the night watch started with a reminder of Russ's motto, "Races are won and lost in the long dark hours."

Steve and I had the B shift, 9p-midnight and 3a-6a. We guided the boat and trimmed the sails to make the most of the light winds as we reached under the full moon. Sailing under the moonlight with nothing but the bow wake and wind was a serene, near transcendental experience. This is why I had been so eager to join the crew, to get out of the sight of land and be part of the shared saltwater experience that runs deep in the blood of humankind. When the moon set, the stars shone and the Milky Way reigned supreme overhead. At that moment I knew I was hooked – I would be looking for more blue water races for many years to come.

The winds started filling in by Tuesday and we had sailed closer inland than the rest of the fleet. This position let us be the first to take advantage of the winds and we clawed our way into first position. A position that would be constantly fought for, lost, and regained as Blue Heron match raced the two other leading boats southward. Towards nightfall we had the lead, but the competition was flirting with the horizon behind us.

Wednesday morning, we passed Rebecca Shoals and entered the notorious Florida Straights. The trade winds coming from the west, and the Gulfstream from the east, made for a near dead south broad reach through increasingly turbulent seas. If we had been cruising, we would have fallen off and run with the waves in comfort. However, we were not cruising. That fact was reinforced by the skipper's constant vigilance and correction of our sail trim, always with the competition just abaft. With every renewal of their radar signature just 3.5 miles behind, Russ would cajole, endear, and threaten our sail handling – squeezing every tenth of a knot of boat speed that he could. When just 40 miles out from Havana, with our lead steady at 4 miles, he still wasn't content! So we jettisoned all but the bare minimum of water and food. Though it made my safety oriented nature nervous, we inched ahead as sun set and we drag raced into the night, heavy seas coming from our rear quarter creating a most unpleasant rolling yaw that had most the crew on deck focused on the horizon.

The final blast to the finish line (a poorly lit buoy right outside of Marina Hemingway) had us once again on constant alert, dodging finy 12 foot fishing boats that flaunted the man height waves and plied their trade at the midnight hour.

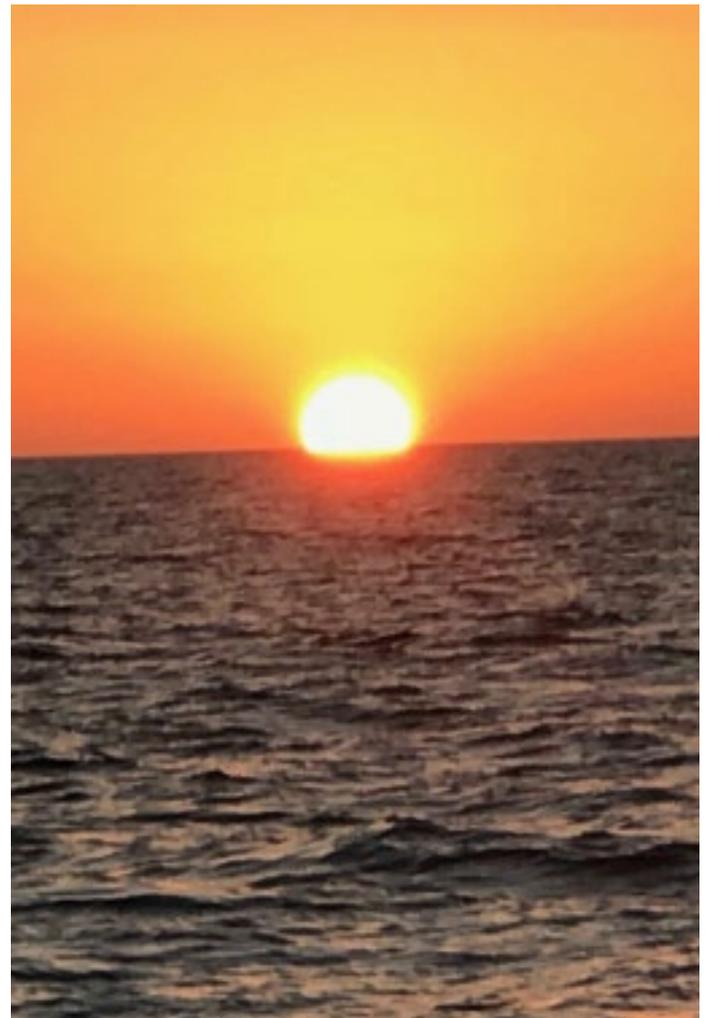


Blue Heron crew in front of Club Nautico Marina Hemingway with 1st place award

We crossed the finish line 2 days, 12 hours, 13 minutes, and 18 seconds, to claim line honors and later learn, overall first in our fleet as well. The next boat arrived 22 minutes later; after over 300 miles sailed I never imagined it to be that tight of a race. Marina Hemingway International Yacht club was gracious and as welcoming as we had heard the Cuban people to be. The welcoming party and awards ceremony was resplendent with a whole roasted pig, overflowing Cuban Rum drinks and a raucous live Cuban band. I even had the honor of exchanging an Austin Yacht Club burgee for theirs, so that our little Texan Club will be represented in their hall.

The 2018 St Petersburg to Habana race will be a memory that I will always treasure – of an amazing hard fought race, and how a team of sailors that have never sailed together can be driven by common purpose and passion to achieve a first place win.

The question now is, where and when is the next long distance race?



Blue water sunset

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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

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AYC 2018 RACE CALENDAR

Apr 7-8	Governor's Cup
Apr 13, 20, 27	Beer Can Races 6:00p start
Apr 15	Late Spring Series #1 1:30p start RC: Ensign Fleet
Apr 22	Late Spring Series #2 1:30p start RC: A Fleet
Apr 28-29	TX State High School Championship
Apr 29	Late Spring Series #3 1:30p start RC: B Fleet
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Laser/Sunfish Racing 6:00p start
May 4, 11, 18	Beer Can Races 6:00p start
May 5-6	Turnback Canyon Regatta
May 11-13	J/22 SW District Circuit Stop
May 20	Late Spring Series #4 EOS 1:30p start RC: J22
May 20	Chaparral de Mar 1:30-4:00p
May 25	MoonBurn Series Race 8:00-11:00p

AYC 2018 NON-RACING EVENTS

Apr 13-14	Sea Scouts 2018 Sometimes Island Sail
Apr 14	ASA 101 9:00a-5:00p
Apr 15, 22, 29	Free Sail Sunday 1:00-4:00p
Apr 26	Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p
Apr 27-28	Women's Clinic
May 12	ASA 101 9:00a-5:00p
May 13, 20, 27	Free Sail Sunday 1:00-4:00p
May 19	Learn to Sail Clinic 1:00-5:00p
May 19	Sail 4 Kids 1:00-4:00p
May 24	Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p
May 26	Luau



Rosanne Butera and Robin Drummond took a shortcut back to the Club across Travis Landing, sailing approximately 100 yards inside of the low water buoys and 50 yards inside trees sticking out of the water to run aground, then attempted to sail off the shoal by heeling the boat over, only to be driven into more shallow water. Took two chase boats to rescue them. (Submitted by Bruce McDonald)



Lovely Rain after Spring #4

Photo by Ed Pierce
March 18, 2018

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