



Congratulations Ensign Fleet!

WINNER OF 2023 AYC FUND FLEET CHALLENGE



Johannes Brinkmann presenting the Bernstein-Brinkmann award to Ensign Fleet reps, L-R: Molly Isbell, Tom Groll, Anne & David Morley, Annie & Charlie Lancaster, and Sara, Margaret, and Everett Faust. *Photo by Marilyn Jackson*

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Commodore
 Clubspot Add-a-Photo
 Fall Round Up Regatta Info
 Vice Commodore Report
 Sail Training Report
 Safety at Sea Seminar Report
 New Members
 From the Desk of the GM

Coaching Update
 Where Did All the Burgees Go
 In Memory of Dana McGehee Lappin
 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge
 New Member Ice Cream Social
 Beer Can Racing
 Fleet Reports
 Living the Dream Part 5 by Nelson Reynolds

Message from the Commodore by Russ Shermer



Greetings AYC Board & Membership,

September has been a busy month. I would like to highlight two of the events in which I was deeply involved.

Will Sofrin retold the story of delivering a replica 18th century tall ship from Rhode Island to San Diego that was

used as a prop for the movie "Master & Commander: The Far Side of the World." In the retelling he shared photos and video of the journey through storms, a partial de-masting and delivering a ship that required months of repairs to become seaworthy again. It was both a humorous and a deeply heartfelt story that made for an absolutely wonderful evening. I would like to thank **Janis Livingston** for preparing the wonderful hors d'oeuvres and supplying the beverages, and **Colleen & Ed Taylor** for helping clean up! There are only two books left for purchase via the AYC online store or directly in the office. Once they are gone, the book can be purchased on Amazon for a bit more.

US Sailing, in conjunction with the Storm Trysail club, put on a Safety at Sea seminar that was absolutely brilliant. Participants could just show up and take the training for the day, or take the 15-hour online course ahead of time. The advantage of the pre-study was that you had the opportunity to deep-dive into all of the aspects of survival at sea with the online course, then get a refresher at the one-day seminar. The course also provided a great deal of hands-on training. This included getting to practice the proper use of a fire extinguisher to put out an actual fire, the use of flares, crew overboard exercises and experiencing an auto-inflate PFD. After sitting in the water and experiencing what it is like with foul weather gear and such, we got to climb into an open-ocean-grade life raft. The course made it painfully evident that one only leaves the boat if it is on fire or is flooded and starting to sink. This is the first time the course has been offered in central Texas, but given how well it was received, I suspect we will be offering it again. Participants and instructors flew in from Florida, Rhode Island and Chicago. Be sure to check out **Michael Moran's** article and photos starting on page 6.

For the upcoming regattas, we will have non-members needing to make on-site purchases. We now have an integrated point-of-sale system but need to train those involved in how to use it. For the **Will Sofrin** presentation, we were able to easily put book purchases on members' accounts and process credit cards for non-member purchases. We have a handheld device that is fully integrated with Clubspot for this purpose. Contact me or **Jackie** if you need help and access to perform those functions.

SAVE THE DATE

9/28	AYC Board Meeting
9/30	Fall Round Up Regatta
Oct Saturday Mornings	Adult Next Step Dinghy Sailing
Oct Sunday Mornings	Adult Basic Racing in FJs
10/7-8	ASA 101 Public Classes
10/7, 14, 21, 11/4	Adult Beginning Sailing in FJs
10/14-15	MultiFest Regatta
10/15	Discover Sailing
10/21-22, 28-29, 11/4-5, 11-12, 18-19	Fall Series*
10/26	AYC Board Meeting
10/28-29	SEISA Collegiate Racing

* Saturdays: Ensign, J/22, J24, Pearson 26, PRF-A, PRF-B, Centerboard
Sundays: J/80, Multihull

Clubspot - Add a Photo to Your Account

AYC Members,

Did you know that you can add a photo of yourself, family, pets, etc. in your Clubspot account?

You'll need to sign into your Clubspot account. On the MEMBER DETAILS screen you will see a box for MEMBER PICTURE. Underneath that box is "click to upload". Once you click on that box you can upload a picture of yourself or a picture of you with family, pets, etc. etc. You can change the photo as often as you like!

Some of the newest members had pictures uploaded to their Member Application; however, the picture may not have transferred over to their MEMBER DETAILS in their membership account.

If you've added a picture to your account, please check your account to be sure that it's still visible on your Member Details page. If it has "disappeared", please add another picture.

If you haven't uploaded a picture to your account yet, please give it a whirl!!

THANK YOU!



Come sail the Fall Round Up Regatta on the last day of September!!

Come on out and enjoy the cool weather, great BBQ and music,
and a fun afternoon of racing! Open to all Monohull and Large Multihull Sailboats

Registration includes one ticket for a meal, drinks, and entertainment.

Additional tickets available for \$25

Online only by Monday, September 25 @ Noon CDT

Early registration \$75, Late/On-site Registration \$100

Schedule – Saturday, September 30

- 11:00 On-site late registration and snacks
- 12:00 Competitor's briefing beneath the AYC clubhouse
- 1:30 Warning signal of first start
- 5:30 Happy hour, live music, BBQ dinner and awards

Music: Anna Larson Band <https://www.annalarsonmusic.com>

Food: Rollin' Smoke BBQ <https://rollinsmokeatxbbq.com>

We still need volunteers for RC and serving/cleanup. If you can pitch in a half day of work for a good evening with your friends, please email Alan or Gina Stanard at astanard@gmail.com

***** Probationary Members: This is your opportunity to get service AND racing points!
Maybe even a Race Committee point for your probation qualifications. *****

Vice Commodore Report by Bill Hawk



Ahoy AYC Members,

Well, Fall should be in the air – at least they have the pumpkins and candy out at Randalls, even if it's not any cooler yet. And with Fall comes our last regatta of the year – the Fall Round Up Regatta.

The Fall Round Up Regatta is going to be a one-day festival this year, with an afternoon of racing followed by great food and music.

Try to find time to race in the Fall Roundup Regatta! The Regatta chairs are **Gina & Alan Stanard**, who are raising the bar for a fun day of racing and partying at AYC. The weather should be cool(er) and hopefully the lake will be more full, so come out and join the fun!

As usual, we also need volunteers to work at this event, so if you are not sailing and have a few hours or a day you could contribute to helping out, we will need Race Committee and kitchen/party helpers on the 30th. Any and all assistance will be greatly appreciated!

On a personal note, thank you all for the incredible outpouring of love and support. AYC was always a huge part of **Kelly's** and my life, and our "sailing family" there – all of you – have been awesome and greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Sail Training Commander Report by Linda McDavitt



September has been an interesting month with all the Club activities and strange happenings. I've felt like a pinball machine dodging the unexpected targets as we have worked through our Beginning Sailing Class. We started our journey Saturday the 2nd, then did a Saturday/Sunday on the 9th & 10th, and ended on Sunday the 17th. The fractured

sequence was due to AYC Fund Fleet Challenge, Safety at Sea Seminar and the Centerboard Regatta. Crazy times yet very much fun.

Ryan Sederholm was in charge of this class and did an outstanding job along with volunteers **Anne Morley, Johannes Brinkmann, Hannelore Sederholm, Jim Rehage, Susan Cushman, James Bland, Luis Maximo, and Ben Bachmeier.**



Some days were windy and some were rather light. Photo by Linda McDavitt



Working on moving and sail trim Photos by Linda McDavitt



Love the determination in their eyes!!



Roland is having too much fun! Glad Eric is on the lookout for wind and boats. Photos above by Anne Morley

continued next page



Then there is Luis and Julia having way too much fun! Photos this column by Anne Morley



So, if at first you don't succeed, then try something else! Photo by Anne Morley

Another fun moment was watching some of the Safety at Sea and then being the boat along with Bay shooting the flares ... Rocket Flare, Parachute Flare (we never did see the parachute), Flare out of the pistol and then the Smoke Flare. The last session we did notice a plane flying over head and hoped that we would not be reported. However, **Michael Moran**, along with **Andre De La Reza**, made sure that all was under control and in line with the burn ban, etc..



Ray working with Molly and building confidence.

However, this past Sunday the 17th had some interesting twists. We finally got the Rib with the new tubes that liked to deflate all the time back to work with the help of **Bay Peterson** taking it to Triad Marine in Kemah for a bit of repair. Yay!! Then we put it back in the water and into service. About halfway through the class it died. It died and would not come back to life??? Hummmmm. So, we tried a couple of ideas... wait a bit and then turn it on. That lasted for about 5 seconds and then off again. Next, we tried getting a tow with one of the class sailboats.



Bay Peterson hard at work! Photos by Linda McDavitt



Guess it thought it was going to a UT game?

Bravo to **Michael Moran** on an incredible job and the volunteers that worked with him on the Safety at sea Seminar. Another fun day with a wonderful thunderstorm rolling through with some exciting wind, rain, thunder, and lightning.



That was fun until the wind came up and shoved us both towards Travis Landing again. So I called for help and was given John Foster's number, called John and he came to the rescue. John Foster on the Bartlett Rib out to save the day.

Discover Sailing was with the J80 Fleet under the direction of **Ray Shull** along with Volunteers **Bob Leonard, Kurt Carson, Ed Pierce, Kirk Livingston, John Bartlett, and Ken Berringer**. Great feedback on their day from the participants.

All in all, I just have to say that we are fortunate to have lots of our members and some good friends step up and lend a hand when necessary.

Have you managed to meet **Coach Zach** yet? If not, you need to. Great guy and fun and exciting coach!

My fun and educational time is being a chauffeur for **James Brock** and the High School B Team! Love to learn and see things in a new perspective.

Life is good and October should be another interesting month but hopefully without any drama in Sail Training.

Safety at Sea Seminar by Michael Moran



Over the course of the last seven months, AYC partnered with US Sailing and Storm Trysail Club (STC) to host a US Sailing-sanctioned Safety at Sea Hands-on Training Seminar. Saturday September 16 witnessed the culmination of those months of planning and preparation through the successful training of 41 SAS seminar participants by just as many moderators, volunteers, and community support.

The first adult Hands-on Safety at Sea (SAS) Seminar was run by STC at Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy in 2006 based largely upon lessons learned teaching sailors in their Junior SAS programs running from 1997. Since that initial SAS hands-on seminar STC has worked to further refine the program through ongoing review of maritime incidents, testing and experimentation with SAS equipment and techniques, and in partnership with organizations such as US Sailing in their SAS program. Safety at Sea is at the heart of the STC. The club hosts SAS hands-on seminars, conferences, and webinars throughout the year for both adults and youth sailors.

Pete Pattullo was instrumental in seeding the idea of running a SAS hands-on training seminar in Central Texas to make the training more accessible to "middle of the country" sailors. As a well-known trimaran sailor based out of Longview Yacht Club on Lake O the Pines and owner & skipper of NELDA RAY (last factory-built Farrier F33X), there was a secondary objective to make the training both easy to access and compelling for multihull sailors. This as Pete has taken on as a personal mission increasing the safety awareness and readiness of multihull sailors in an ongoing effort to shift the prevailing mindset from "speed or safety" to "speed and safety." As such he was recently invited to become a member of the US Sailing Safety at Sea committee representing multihull offshore sailing on the Great Lakes and Gulf Coast.

To realize the idea, **Pete** in conjunction with **Rich du Moulin** (President, Storm Trysail Foundation, SAS Moderator) approached AYC in February to host what would prove to be a "first of" US Sailing-sanctioned SAS hands-on training seminar in Central Texas on Lake Travis. **Michael Moran** was fool-hardy enough to sign up as event chair – and planning for the event was underway.

Come this past Saturday, September 16, in execution of the training seminar it proved to be a day of firsts:

- First US Sailing-sanctioned SAS Hands-on Training Seminar held in Central Texas
- First SAS seminar to formally incorporate crew overboard (COB) training specific to multihulls
- First SAS seminar conducted on / in a reservoir lake

During the course of the daylong seminar agenda the plan was to deliver:

- Presentations by **Rich du Moulin** of STC and **Matt Gallagher** of US Sailing (recognized SAS subject matter experts) on the topics of:
 - » Marine History / Offshore Sailing / Leadership / Seamanship
 - » Search & Rescue
 - » SAS Communications
 - » Damage Control
 - » Heavy Weather Sailing
- Lunch in the AYC Clubhouse
- Hands-on training activities for:
 - » Fire Suppression & Flares (handheld)
 - » Crew Overboard (COB) Demo; with special thanks to:
 - **Charlie Gallagher** as COB; and
 - **Dan O'Connor** as rescue swimmer
 - » Flares Demo (rocket & smoke)
 - » In-the-water PFD / Survival / Life Rafts – moderated by **Dan O'Connor**
 - » Crew Overboard Drills
- Session wrap up & STC SAS Quiz review by **Rich du Moulin**

Less than 35% of those participating were members of AYC, with the balance across 13 other yacht and boat clubs. Seminar participants traveled to Lake Travis from farther afield in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Florida, and Illinois. And towards **Pete's** vision of engaging multihull sailors, 18 (44%) participants opted to undertake COB Drills on one of the two trimarans supporting the seminar.

Despite a mid-afternoon thunderstorm thrown into the mix – with the resultant need to flex the schedule – the team of moderators, volunteers and support were able to deliver the goods.

Of the 41 participants who completed the hands-on training seminar, contingent upon the certification for which opted, they are on track to receive the following certifications from US Sailing:

Safety at Sea Certification	Count
International Offshore Safety at Sea	23
US Sailing Sanctioned International Offshore Safety at Sea Refresher	4
Offshore Safety at Sea Course	14

This achievement was made possible only through the generous support of local sponsors, community support and numerous volunteers – both AYC and not.

Local Sponsors & Community Support

- Bartlett Sails, Hudson Bend, TX
- Triad Marine, Kemah, TX
- Foley Fire Extinguisher, Cedar Park, TX
- Schroth Fiberglass, Hudson Bend, TX
- Lake Travis Fire Rescue, Lake Travis, TX

COB Drill Boat Owners / Skippers / Crew

- TRIXIE Beneteau 40.1 – **John Bartlett & Stuart Bernd** (on loan from NELDA RAY)
 - » Also supported the COB Demo
- BLACK SWAN Hunter 33 – **Trevor Miller**
- BLUE BLAZER Pearson 30 – **Brad Davis**
- FAR REACH Farrier F28R – **Brigitte Benquet & Mike Beuerlein**
- NELDA RAY Farrier F33X – **Pete Pattullo & Martin Brown**

The above went above and beyond in also signing up and completing a half day SAS COB train-the-trainer session on Friday, September 15 aboard TRIXIE.

RIB Owners / Operators

- **Bob Gross & Anne Riggs** (also winner of the stylin' award...)
- **John Foster** (using **John Bartlett's** RIB)
- **Gal Sela** – and HUGE additional call out for successful tow of BLUE BLAZER back to the dock when needed

SAS Activity Volunteers

- **Terry Schertz** – Check In / Registration; supported by:
 - » **Hazel Sanchez**
 - » **Rick Allen**
- **Andre de la Reza** – Fire Suppression & Flares; supported by:
 - » **Mike Wuamett**
 - » **William Kozminski**
 - » **Stefan Froelich**
- **Bay Peterson & Linda McDavitt** – Rocket & Smoke Demo
- **Harry Polly** – COB Drills Participant Management; supported by:
 - » **Chris Travis**
 - » **Steve Unruh**
 - » **Philippe Bettler**
- **James Wilsford** – Catering; supported by:
 - » **Meri & Steve Shepardson**
 - » **Danny Lien**
 - » **Larry Ratliff**

And a special shout out to the often under-appreciated catering crew. During lunch **Rich du Moulin** was heard to say, "I have been to a lot of these seminars, and this is the most memorable food served at any of them."

If you are interested in Safety at Sea training, recommend you visit [Storm Trysail Club](#) or [US Sailing Adult Sailing Safety at Sea Courses](#).



Rich du Moulin aboard TRIXIE during SAS COB train-the-trainer session



Pete Pattullo – "crew over-board!" Photos by Michael Moran



COB Drill Boat owners / skipper / crew



Marine History / Offshore Sailing / Leadership / Seamanship by Rich du Moulin

continued next page



Fire Suppression Training led by Andre de la Reza *Photos by Michael Moran*



Flotilla (partial) deployed in support of SAS@AYC, L-R: AYC Chase 1, Gal Sela's RIB, Bob Gross' RIB, John Bartlett's RIB, FAR REACH (Brigitte Benquet & Mike Beuerlein) and TRIXIE (John Bartlett, Stuart Bernd, Rich du Moulin, Dan O'Connor)



Handheld Flares Training – Mike Wuamett activity lead



Anne Riggs and Bob Gross – winners of the stylin' award



COB Demo – Charlie Gallagher as COB & Dan O'Connor as Rescue Swimmer



In-the-Water PFD / Survival / Life Rafts – on platform Dan O'Connor (center left) moderating & Mac Morrison (center right) activity life guard

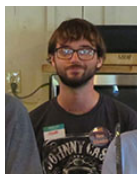
Welcome New Members!



**John
Rains**
*Associate
Probationary*



**Tim
Brown**
*Associate
Probationary*



**Matthew
Gibbons**
*Senior
Probationary*

NOT PICTURED

Alejandro Tello
Junior

Romina Tello
Junior

Luka Vukmirica
Junior

Ari Fjell
Associate Probationary

Garrett Kates
Associate Probationary

Thomas Fussell
Associate Probationary

Bennett Lammers
Young Adult Probationary

From the Desk of the GM

by Jackie Wheelées



Fleet Challenge Billing

The Fleet Challenge billing will be included in the next billing cycle so if you asked to have your donation charged to your membership account, please be aware that your billing will be larger this time. This billing will also include the final Beer Can charges, the Will Sofrin presentation charges and Centerboard charges.

Staff News

Both of our new employees have been in training the past month and **Tom** returned to work this month. Things have been busy but training is going well. **Kyle's** current schedule is 7:00am-3:30pm Wednesday through Friday, and 8:00am-4:00pm Saturday and Sunday. **Zach** is working a split schedule due to heading a boat workshop on Tuesdays, and also working at night in the rigging shop to get it organized and cleaned up. He's usually in the office from 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesday through Friday, and on the water all day Saturday and Sunday. Both of these guys are doing an excellent job and are a real pleasure to work with!

Thank you!!

A huge THANK YOU to **Rona Thornton** for coming in to help get my desk cleaned off. Rona does filing, receipt matching, inventory counting and anything else I throw her way.

Another HUGE thank you goes to **Lynn Weir**, our AYC Accountant. She has been instrumental in keeping our audit moving forward as fast as possible and is in constant contact with the auditors.

The Centerboard Regatta was a BREEZE! **Annie Lancaster** and **James Bland** did a "no frills" regatta – there were a lot of moving parts and lots of volunteers in the background doing things. Everything flowed smoothly. There was a huge turnout and everyone seemed to have a great time, not to mention getting discounted regatta merchandise! (More on Centerboard and Fall Roundup Regattas in next Telltale.)

Label Your Trailers!

A reminder to be sure your trailer is labeled on both sides of the tongue with "AYC" and your last name. The Sea Scouts are very willing and happy to paint this information on your trailer if you'd like, please email **Harry Polly** at hpolly2323@gmail.com for more information.

Coaching Update

by Zach Steuer



Dear Austin Yacht Club Members,

I trust this message finds you well and eager to embark on another season of sailing on the picturesque waters of Lake Travis. In my capacity, I am pleased to provide an update on our recent activities in the AYC Junior Program.

Opti 1 Group

Instructed by Zach Steuer, Sophia Pando, and Ryder Getson

Over the past month, our young sailors in the Opti 1 group have engaged in a comprehensive learning experience, benefitting from the expertise of our instructional trio – **Zach Steuer, Sophia Pando and Ryder Getson**. Together, we have adeptly guided these budding sailors through the fundamentals. The curriculum has covered essential aspects, from learning the points of sail to acquiring an in-depth understanding of boat components. Furthermore, rigging, derigging, and tacking maneuvers have been central to their training.

Opti 2 Group

Coached by Zach Steuer and Ryder Getson

The Opti 2 group has been under the guidance of our coaching team, **Zach Steuer and Ryder Getson**. We've been dedicated to fine-tuning the racing skills of our young sailors. Our focus has been on achieving mastery in those all-important ace starts and squeezing every ounce of speed from our vessels on the expansive waters of Lake Travis.

Opti 3 Group

Coached by Zach Steuer

The Opti 3 group has been under my guidance. Pushing these sailors to their limits, we are exploring advanced sail controls, perfecting the art of roll tacking, and diving headfirst into racing tactics.

continued next page

Single/Doublehanded Group

Coached by Zach Steuer

Our Single/Doublehanded class has been a highlight of our program. We've explored different points of sail, organized picturesque picnics on Lake Travis, and dedicated ourselves to the art of tacking and jibing while surrounded by the breathtaking scenery. It's been a privilege to lead and guide this enthusiastic group.

HS B Team

Coached by James Brock

We are privileged to have James Brock as the coach for our high school B team. James has demonstrated exceptional coaching prowess, leading our young sailors in mastering upwind and downwind sailing techniques. Long upwind and downwind grinds has been a primary focus, getting our B team sailors acquainted with the FJ.

HS A Team

Coached by Zach Steuer

Our high school A team has also been devoted to achieving excellence, focusing on boat speed optimization, tactical race maneuvers, precision starts, and meticulous race course strategy development. We are committed to elevating the competitive performance of our team. Our goal this past month has been to primarily focus on Boat Speed and strategic placement in tight quarters. Over the past two weeks our drills are resulting in faster boats and smarter tactical decisions when close together on the race course.

Boat Repair Workshop

In an exciting development, we introduced the Boat Repair Workshop. This hands-on experience has enabled our sailors to gain proficiency in fiberglass work, West Systems Epoxy handling, and the responsible use of power tools. The knowledge gained is invaluable as we aim to nurture well-rounded sailors.

Looking Forward - ILCA (Laser) Fleet

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the introduction of our ILCA (formerly Laser) fleet at the Austin Yacht Club. These sleek boats will soon become integral to our single and doublehanded programs, adding a new layer of excitement to our sailing experiences on Lake Travis.

The camaraderie, passion, and dedication displayed by our sailors have been inspiring. Together, with our dedicated coaching and instructional team and enthusiastic sailors, we look forward to achieving new heights in our sailing endeavors.

For any inquiries, suggestions, or discussions related to our sailing program, please feel free to reach out. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to provide the best possible sailing experience.

Wishing you fair winds and smooth sailing,

Where Did All the Burgees Go?

by Ed Pierce



Recent visitors to the AYC clubhouse may have noticed that the hundreds of burgees have all been temporarily removed, to allow for re-painting the clubhouse.

This also presents an opportunity to highlight an important yet under-appreciated bit of AYC history — these burgees were all acquired by members performing burgee exchange on their travels sailing.



New members **Brint Hlavaty, David Broadlick along with Brigitte Benquet, Mike Beuerlein and Ed Pierce** took the burgees down and updated the inventory.

Each burgee is photographed and logged in a database with the acquirer, date of acquisition, and details associated with the visited yacht club and assigned a specific location roughly in the direction a crow would fly from the Austin Yacht Club to reach that club. We have a nice latitude-longitude bearing calculator concocted by **Commodore Russ Shermer** to guide the placement on clubhouse walls.

There've been many burgees added to our collection that lack all these colorful details and this presents an opportunity to publicize this history and update this information by those who witnessed the event or made subsequent visits. Colorful details may include regatta dates, favorite memories, and descriptions of local conditions. If you've visited any of these yacht clubs and have burgees you've added or to add to our collection, we invite you to help add details to the database.

Ed would also like to find some web-savvy helper to publish the images and database information on our WordPress site. Get involved, publish history!



In Memory of Dana McGehee Lappin



From Tom Lappin:

I'm very sad to report that after a long hard battle with cancer, my wonderful wife, Dana passed away peacefully Monday morning, September 18th.

Most of you know that this battle was something we started fighting almost 2 and a half years ago, with much success early on. Sadly after we thought she had beaten it last year, we learned through routine scans that it had spread to her liver. At the time, we resumed chemo therapy again with some success.

Unfortunately by the end of last year, the chemo stopped getting the desired results. We then battled through a number of issues, including a blockage in her liver and several surgeries to mitigate the blockage and even a stroke two months ago. Eventually we were able to start an immunotherapy clinical trial in the early summer. Even though we had high hopes, the clinical trial also did not get the results we were hoping for.

Over the past month, Dana's health started to decline. Last week things progressed very quickly. We started hospice last weekend. We were very fortunate that they were able to get her comfortable and pain free and at peace as she passed on Monday morning.

I wish we could have invited more people to say goodbye to her, but things happened very quickly. There are so many people that have helped us in so many ways, I can't even begin to thank y'all enough. She loved so many people. Thank you all for your love and support.

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

by Louise Miller



THE FLEET CHALLENGE RETURNED – LIVE AND IN-PERSON!

After three years of either not having a fleet challenge or having only an email pledge drive, the full-blown fleet challenge returned live and in-person, and in spectacular fashion! The competition was fierce, but the **Ensigns** prevailed in the end by winning three of the five categories and earning their plaque on the Bernstein-Brinkmann Fleet Challenge

Trophy for 2023. **Congratulations Ensigns!** And congratulations to all who contributed towards a whopping grand total raised of **\$37,300!** Your donations, participation, time and effort make it possible for the AYC Fund to continue its mission of promoting and supporting competitive sailing at AYC and in the local Austin area. On behalf of the 2023 AYC Fund Board members, **Kirk Livingston, Mary Carew, Linda McDavitt, Sarah Faust, Bill Coon, Fred Ford** and myself, we sincerely thank you all for making this year's Fleet Challenge a success. And hopefully, everyone had as much fun as we had in the process of planning and hosting this event and seeing everyone in the club pull together for this great cause that we all care about.

The Donation Drive

The fleet challenge began with a two-week donation drive, the success of which would not have been possible without the support of our AYC fleet captains. These champions of the cause would receive fleet challenge updates by email every few days and forward them to their fleet members with a rallying call to action. At the beginning, **Bill Records** set the pace bringing the **Pearson 26** fleet to an early lead. It wasn't long though until **Daniel Garces** met the challenge urging the **Sunfish** fleet on to pull ahead of the **Pearsons**. But then that's when the incentives really kicked in. We are so fortunate to have generous contributors like **David & Gail Bernstein, Johannes & Liza Brinkmann, John & Claudia Bartlett, and Terry Schertz** who donated funds to be used as matching or challenge incentives. Once some fleet-specific challenges were announced, the competition shifted

into high gear and the **J80s**, led by **Ray Shull** and spurred into action by **Claudia Bartlett**, took a commanding lead. The **Lasers** (led by **Gray Rackley**) had a strong showing and were in the top three from time to time, but it was the **Ensigns** led by **Lewis Price** and championed by **Molly Isbell** that pulled ahead in the end winning the category of **Total Donation Dollars** at the end of the drive, beating out the **J80s** by only \$10! Close on their heels taking third place in this category was the **Melges 15** fleet led by **Kirk Livingston** – what a great showing for a brand new AYC fleet. Very impressive indeed! In the category of **Most Donors**, the **Multi-hulls** led by **Mike Beuerlein** and championed by **Bill & Paula Coon** ruled the day with an impressive number of 37 donors who donated \$50 or more. The **J80s** took another second in this category, with the **Sunfish** taking third.

The Beer Can Race

When planning this year's event, we wanted to include something that allowed everyone to participate by racing – 'cause that's what this is all about! Well **Fred Ford** suggested the idea of including one of the Friday night beer can races as an additional fleet challenge category. Brilliant! But it wouldn't be a fundraiser if we didn't raise funds. So that's when **Kirk Livingston** suggested allowing folks to purchase minutes that could be subtracted from their starting time. Another brilliant idea and we were off to the races (pun intended.) So on September 1, the last Friday night of the donation drive, we had 15 boats representing 12 fleets competing. The boat that had purchased the most minutes to subtract from their starting time won – **Ensign 324** with **Tom Groll, Molly Isbell and Bill Hawk**. The boat that purchased the second most minutes ended up finishing the race in second place – **Kirk & Janis Livingston** sailing their **J80** on behalf of the **Melges 15** fleet. Hmm.... I'm seeing a correlation here. Coming in third, also benefitting from minutes purchased, was **Ed Taylor** sailing his **J80** on behalf of the **J80s**. A couple of boats would have done better if they had not either (a) run aground, or (b) stopped to help those who ran aground. Thanks to **Steve & Katie Whitley** for stopping to assist others, as well as AYC's new coach **Zach Steuer** for rescuing folks. Also of note – **Marcelo Pando** raced the course on his **Laser** even though he could have sailed a keelboat while representing the **Laser** fleet. Way to go Marcelo!

Overall Standings

Fleet	Total Donations (Dollars [Rank])	Number of Donors (Count [Rank])	Beer Can Race (Best Finish [Rank])	420 Race (Position [Rank])	Games Results (Num Tokens [Rank])	Total Score	Rank
Ensign	\$6,690 [1]	20 [4]	1 [1]	9 [9]	58 [1]	16	1
J80	\$6,680 [2]	33 [2]	3 [3]	5 [5]	7 [8]	20	2
Melges 15	\$6,125 [3]	15 [5]	2 [2]	6 [6]	38 [4]	20	3
Multi-hull	\$4,040 [4]	37 [1]	4 [4]	7 [7]	0 [10]	26	4
Sunfish	\$3,050 [5]	21 [3]	16 [11]	1 [1]	9 [7]	27	5
Laser	\$2,100 [7]	12 [7]	8 [7]	4 [4]	49 [2]	27	6
Roadrunner	\$650 [10]	3 [10]	16 [11]	2 [2]	42 [3]	36	7
Pearson 26	\$2,125 [6]	11 [8]	13 [9]	9 [9]	37 [5]	37	8
PRF B	\$2,090 [8]	13 [6]	12 [8]	7 [7]	0 [10]	39	9
J22/J24	\$1,650 [9]	7 [9]	7 [6]	11 [11]	36 [6]	41	10
UT	\$200 [12]	1 [12]	15 [10]	3 [3]	1 [9]	46	11
PRF A/J70	\$400 [11]	3 [10]	5 [5]	12 [12]	0 [10]	48	12

continued next page

September 3 – The Big Event Day

One could say that the final day of the Fleet Challenge is a crazy, jam-packed, complicated event. Absolutely true – but it is just so much fun! With a light brunch and Bloody Mary & Mimosa bar to start the day, early attendees were regaled with some stories of the history of AYC and then thrown into this mysterious betting process called the Calcutta, led by our Master of Ceremonies **Jeff Brock**. What is the Calcutta? Basically, participants can bid on any 420 team, or even multiple 420 teams, with the goal of winning additional money for their fleet's Total Donations category. Each 420 team ends up being claimed (for Calcutta purposes) by the person who bid the highest for that team, and all winning bid amounts are thrown into the Calcutta pool. After the 420 races, the pool gets split amongst the winning bidders for the top three 420 teams. This year, the Calcutta pool came to \$3,750. The bidding process can be quite competitive with a lot of wheeling and dealing going on behind the scenes, and Jeff's commentary adding to the fun – as always!

Then there were a few other opportunities to gain an edge before the race. Fleet members could purchase up to two throw outs for their team. Also, each 420 racing team could have AYC's own 2024 U.S. Olympic Development Team member **Ethan Froelich** rig their boat for a \$50 donation! While all this was going on, PRO **Kirk Livingston** and helpers **Mike Beuerlein & Brigitte Benquet** were getting the mark set bots in place and preparing for the races. It seemed at first as if we wouldn't have enough wind – which is a real risk in early September. But the wind gods also wanted to contribute to this great cause and donated enough wind to make it happen! Each fleet raced one 420 with most fleets fielding their team from their own fleet. Those who chose not to had a team of expert 420 sailors assigned to them by **Jeff Brock**. It sure looked like everyone had a great time racing, and how fitting that the races were on boats that the AYC Fund was so instrumental in purchasing!

You can see looking at the roster that there was some serious competition. With some excellent pre-planning of short W-L courses, and using the mark set bots to make quick adjustments to the course

in the face of 20 degree wind shifts, **Kirk** was able to start five races in only 1.5 hours, with water breaks between races. The **Sela** gals took advantage of the lighter air winning the first race. But **Jamie and Lily** got bullets in the remaining four races earning a 1st place in the 420 Racing category for the Sunfish fleet. In the end, **Roni and Yuval** tied with **Ethan and Rohit** with a total of 15 points each, but luckily the Roadrunner fleet claimed 2nd place having purchased two throw outs whereas the UT team had only purchased one. And with these results, 70% of the Calcutta pool went to the Melges fleet (they won the bids for the Sunfish and UT teams) and 30% went to the Ensigns (they won the bid for the Roadrunner team.)

So then the stage was set for the final competition category – Family Games. Many thanks to **Claudia Bartlett** and her dynamic team for organizing and running games that were enjoyed by all – water balloon toss, egg relay, egg toss and the egg throw driving range, tug of war, sailbag sack race, hula hoop, greased watermelon and diving for dollars. Whew! That's a lot of action! Winners were awarded tokens which were then added to their fleet's bucket. At the end of the games, the fleets were ranked according to how many tokens they had won. Once again, the Ensign fleet snagged first place with the Lasers and Roadrunner fleets taking second and third, respectively.

After a busy day, it was time to relax and enjoy the evening. **John & Claudia Bartlett's** Dark 'N Stormy bar was a popular hit as always. Thanks John & Claudia for donating the drinks and to all those who selflessly imbibed just so they could make one last donation before the evening was over. And how lucky we were to have **Bill Benker** there to cook and serve his mouth-watering barbeque. We couldn't have hoped for anything better. And what an awesome surprise when Bill announced he was donating the barbeque for the cause. Thank you Bill and **Winkleys and The Sailboat Shop!** And of course, a huge shout out to **Stephanie Froelich** for leading the charge on all food and refreshments. She and her **Froelich team**, with the help of **Nan Taylor, Steve Shepardson**, and many of our new probationary members, treated us all to a fabulous brunch, snacks and refreshments during the day, and vegetarian options at dinner, not to mention the beer! The Froelichs also made their RV available at the point during the races for

anyone who needed some AC, WiFi, refreshments or shade. A welcomed oasis on such a hot day.

Immediately after dinner, folks were treated to ice cream provided by the New Member Committee. Thanks to **Anne Morley** for such a perfect treat to end the meal and for connecting us with probationary and new member volunteers early on to help us with the event. In addition to those mentioned elsewhere, many thanks and a big welcome to **Jared Hibbs, Rebecca Kainer, Leandro Rey Moral, Steve Unruh, Kaye Jaynes, Dante Alibrio, and Matt Gibbons.**

Those attending the award ceremony had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know a little more about AYC's new coach **Zach Steuer**, as

Fleet	Competitor	Sail #	Position
Sunfish	Jamie Brock / Lily Wind	8	1
Roadrunner	Roni and Yuval Sela	7	2
UT	Ethan Froelich / Rohit Rajan	10	3
Laser	David and Sonja Grogono Gray and Millie Rackley	4	4
J80	Kristen Van Veen / Mark Hulings	12	5
Melges 15	John and Claudia Bartlett	11	6
PRF B	Max Ross / Ryder Getson	6	7
Multi-hull	Alfred Aimard / Jim Rehage	9	7
Ensign	Annie Lancaster/Anne Morley	1	9
Pearson 26	Sasha Scoggin / Quinn Ross	5	9
J22/J24	Brian Metz / Gabriela Banka	2	11

continued next page

well as hearing from **Ethan Froelich** about his Olympic campaign – one that the AYC Fund is so proud to support. With the final calculations made by our magnificent Fleet Challenge Scoremeister **Molly Isbell**, assisted by **Terry Shertz** and **Audrey Ravelo**, the overall Fleet Challenge winners were announced. Having bullets in three of the five categories, the Ensigns took the win overall. The J80s and Melges 15 fleets tied for second place with a total score of 20 each, but the J80s won that tiebreaker with just over \$500 more in Total Donation Dollars. We were honored to have **Johannes Brinkmann** present the Bernstein-Brinkmann Fleet Challenge award to the Ensign Fleet representatives. Afterwards, with the sun down, the cool breeze, the DJ playing and people dancing, one could only look back and think... yes, we should definitely do this again next year!

Something that was new this year, and definitely a keeper for next year was the Fleet Challenge Video Feed and Roving Reporters! Orchestrated by **Paul Carew**, roving reporters **Jeff Jackson**, **David Broadlick** and **James Parsons** were able to provide a live feed of 420 racing action through their phones to a YouTube channel that was displayed on the upstairs and downstairs TVs at the clubhouse. In fact, with a QR code that was provided at the event, folks could watch the live feed on their phones! What a blast. There was a group watching the 420 racing from the air-conditioned clubhouse, cheering their teams on! The reporters were able to interview the racers on the water, catch the starts and finishes, and broadcast **Jeff Brock's** commentary throughout the races. What a treat! When there was no live feed, those watching the YouTube channel were treated to a slideshow put together by young **Margaret Faust** showcasing many of the grants awarded by the AYC Fund in the past, reminding everyone what their donations make possible and the achievements of AYC sailors. Great job Margaret! And photographers **Marilyn Jackson** and **John McKallip** did an awesome job capturing the fun, with **John Foster** helping by driving the video/ audio crew on the Bartlett's RIB during the races.

Well, I can't let this article end without highlighting some others who donated their time and effort to this event. In addition to those already mentioned, **Daniel Garces** headed up our logistics team assisted by **Rich Ryon** and **Justin Van Veen**, and **Mary Carew** led the charge on decorations and other setup tasks assisted by **Martine Lacombe**, **Jeane Goldsmith** and **Karen Bogisch**. **Bill Coon** and **Fred Ford** did a fantastic job promoting the event, from that great banner and Burma-shave signs on your left as you drove in, to all our flyers and notices, to that fantastic Fleet Challenge Regatta web page that was updated with the latest and greatest throughout the Fleet Challenge. And I've never seen such a clean clubhouse following an event like this, thanks to **David Aronson** and his Sea Scouts volunteers for doing such a great job cleaning up. Thanks as always to **Jackie Wheeless** for all her support and to **Kyle McGhee** for his help from setting up through clean-up. Last but not least, much of the success of this fleet challenge is due to the guidance and support of past AYC Fund members **Terry Schertz**, **Claudia Bartlett** and **Molly Isbell**, who along with others from past AYC Fund Boards paved the way.

We hope everyone had fun and learned a bit more about the AYC Fund and how it serves the sail racing community. For more information about the fund and what types of grants are available, visit the AYC Fund web page under the Information tab of the AYC website.

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson except where noted

LUNCH



Lunch cooks L-R: James Asterius, Katie Froelich, Nan Taylor, Rebecca Kainer



The spread



Bloody Mary and Mimosa bar server Rey Moral Leandro

continued next page

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

LUNCH



Jeff Jackson and new Assistant Caretaker Kyle McGhee



L-R: Bill Records, Abby & Chris Ryan



Brad & Susan Davis



Charlie & Annie Lancaster



Liz Stansfeld and William Deboer

continued next page

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

420 RACES/CALCUTTA CHALLENGE



Brigitte Benquet & Mike Beuerlein raising the event flags



Event flags are up



Race spectators



Watching the 420s on YouTube live



420 Fleet races



420 Fleet races

continued next page

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Bill Records

420 RACES/CALCUTTA CHALLENGE



420 start



Jamie Brock 1st place, representing the Sunfish Fleet



Mark rounding



John & Claudia Bartlett, representing the Melges 15 Fleet



Sasha Scoggin and Quinn Ross, representing the Pearson 26 Fleet



Roni and Yuval Sela, representing the Roadrunner Fleet

continued next page

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

420 RACES/CALCUTTA CHALLENGE



MC Jeff Brock with scoremeisters L-R Audrey Ravelo, Terry Schertz and Molly Isbell



Louise Miller and Claudia Bartlett



Competitor briefing



Kirk Livingston, competitor briefing announcements



L-R: Paul Carew, Jeff Jackson, Louise Miller, David Broadlick, James Parsons



L-R: Jeff Brock, Karen Bogisch, MillieYap & William Kozminski

continued next page

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

FAMILY GAMES



Claudia Bartlett in charge of the games



Balloon toss



Egg relay



Egg toss



Egg toss spectators

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

FAMILY GAMES



Pool break



Spectators Jeff Sabuda & Dee Chow



Tug of war



Sack races



Family game winners

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

DINNER



Bill Benker at the smoker



Servers L-R: Kaye Jaynes, Steve Shepardson, Bill Benker



Servers L-R: Kaye Jaynes, Stephanie Froelich, Jared Hibbs, Matt Gibbons, Nan Taylor, Steve Shepardson



L-R: Ernie Wood, Brandon & Emily Jakobeit, Laura Wood



Left side: Brendan Crouch, Claudia Bartlett, Madeline Crouch, Right side: Lauren Crouch, Nan Taylor, John Bartlett, Dee Chow & Jeff Sabuda



L-R: The Freemans - Damien, Joan, Emily, Greg

continued next page
21

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

DINNER



The Shermers, L-R: Russ, Jill, Alia



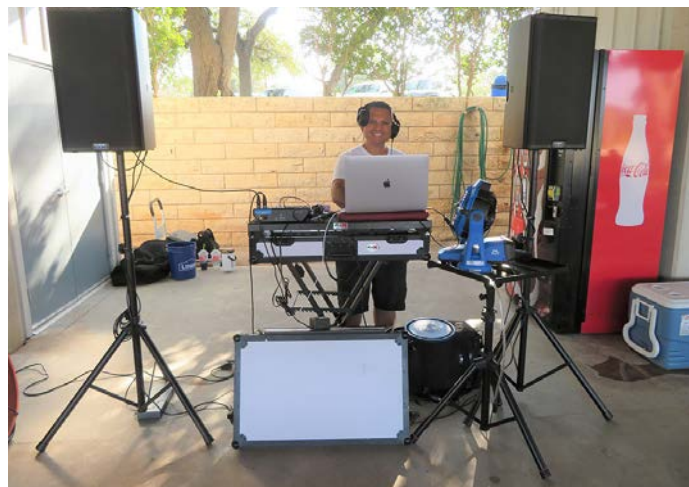
L-R: Karen Bogisch, Jeane Goldsmith, Jeff Jackson, Kirk & Janis Livingston, Steve & Katie Whitley, James Parsons



L-R: Jocelyn Getson, Stefan Froelich, Liz Stansfeld, William Kozminski & Millie Yap



L-R: Jeff Sabuda & Dee Chow, Nan Taylor, Gal Sela, Amy Brock



Party DJ

2023 AYC Fund Fleet Challenge

Photos by Marilyn Jackson

AWARDS



New coach Zach Steuer



Louise Miller announcing fleet winners



Ethan Froelich thank you speech



1st Place Ensigns, L-R: Molly Isbell, Tom Groll, Anne Morley, Johannes Brinkmann, David Morley, Annie & Charlie Lancaster



2nd Place J80, L-R: Anne Riggs, Bay Peterson, Gina & Alan Stanard, Kurt Carson, Terry Schertz, John & Claudia Bartlett, Jeff Brock, Karen Bogisch, Stefan & Stephanie Froelich, Janis & Kirk Livingston, Chris Thompson



3rd Place Melges 15, L-R: Jeff Sabuda & Dee Chow, John & Claudia Bartlett, Jeff Brock, Kirk & Janis Livingston, Amy Brock

New Member Ice Cream Social by Anne Morley



The Membership Committee New Member Ice Cream Social was a huge success!

It was part of the AYC Fund Fleet Challenge event. We had large number of the new members show up. They were given "New Member" buttons, so they were easier to identify. The Membership Committee helped introduce the new members to people in the fleets they were interested in sailing with.

We had a great team serving ice cream! Many thanks to all of those that pitched in to help serve the ice cream. It was fun watching all the masterpieces that were created with all the toppings!

Thank you to the New Members for volunteering by helping with the Fleet Challenge needs and serving ice cream. Thank you to **Kristin Spindler, John Rains, Jared Hibbs, Matthew Gibbons, Kaye Jaynes, Linda McDavitt, Chris Thompson, and Karen Bogisch** for all your great help with the Ice Cream Social and dinner. New Member **Kristin Van Veen** represented the J80s in the Fleet Challenge race. Thank you to all of the other new members that came! It was great seeing all the new members having such a great time and being so involved!



Karen Bogisch, Anne & David Morley at the New Members check in station



New member Jarred Hibbs

New Member Ice Cream Social

Photos by Marilyn Jackson



L-R Renee Ruais, Kristin Spindler, John Rains, Dale & Tanya Scoggin, and Chris Thompson



Kristin Spindler and new member John Rains



Anne & David Morley

Beer Can Races

Photos by Marilyn Jackson



J80 JazzTacks



Ensign Jonathan Seagull



Capri 25 Orner



J80 Blood Sweat & Tears



Catamaran Nacra 5.2

Beer Can Races

Photos by Marilyn Jackson



Erin Peavler and Jeff Jackson on Catalina 25 Winging IT, Ornerly in background



L-R: Capri 25 Ornerly, Ensign Jonathan Seagull, J80 Blood Sweat & Tears



Capri 25 Ornerly



J80 Speed Racer



L-R: Sarah, Jeff Jackson, Shawn Olsen, Philippe Bettler, Brigitte Benquet, Daniel Wayne, James Parsons, John Maddalozzo

Catalina 22 Fleet Report

by Steve Pervier



Summer 2023 -- is it really over? From the records at Austin's Camp Mabry, the summer of 2023 included a record-smashing 45 consecutive days of 100+ highs, putting the very hot summer of 2011 in 2nd place. That year still holds the highest total of 100 degree days at 90, though we have a strong 2nd place at 80 triple digit days in 2023.

This year's official 45-day streak of 100+ at Mabry was nearly 64 consecutive days, since only two 99-degree highs on August 22 and 29 intervened. Starting September 10, it didn't break 100 for about 12 days, and there may be a few 100s left this month. Meanwhile the Lake Travis water temperature is now about five degrees cooler than the 2023 peak of about 91° last month. Those look like seasonal changes!

For reporting long-term climate averages, meteorologists define Meteorological Autumn as the calendar months of September through November. So on that scale we're in Autumn now. We're more familiar with what astronomers track, as the Autumnal Equinox in 2023 takes place precisely at 1:50am CDT on September 23 this year. At that moment the Sun is directly above Earth's equator, heading south for the next three months until Winter Solstice.

Earth's tilt of 23.5 degrees makes our days shorter, and sunset is becoming earlier. In addition, our elliptical orbit appears to make the Sun increasingly "fast" from about September 1 through October 31, moving sunset another 16 minutes earlier on the clock. (See "Analemma", showing the Sun's changing position at the same time of day through the year.) No wonder we have a lot less light now for Beer Can races!

I recall an easier approximation ... Austin's average highs in the last four months of the year (before climate change) have been just about 90, 80, 70, and 60, to the nearest 5 degrees. So as temperatures and evening light are falling – yes, it really is Fall 2023.

That makes it time for us to get back to weekend sailing on the great days to come. Let's look forward to Fall Regatta on 9/30, and Fall Series on 10/21, 28, 11/4, 11, and 18 (with series dates one day later for J/80s and Trimarans).

Some of our members have been on the water in the last month, but now it's time for more of us to join in. OK? Catalinas, South Coasts, B-Fleet ... Everyone – Let's go sailing!

Dinghy Fleet Report

by James Bland



**2023 Finn North American Championship
Newport Harbor, CA September 2-4, 2023**

In the waters of Newport Harbor off the Newport Beach Pier, the 2023 Finn North American Championship unfolded in a ballet of wind, waves, and skill. Hosted by the respected Newport Harbor Yacht Club, the regatta promised to be a crucible of competition, and it did not disappoint.

Over three days, from the 2nd to the 4th of September, 2023, the waters of the Pacific Ocean played host to a spectacle of sailing prowess. The conditions were as capricious as the sea itself, testing



Rob Coutts leading a group to the finish

the mettle of every sailor on the race course. Even the hour tow in and out to the race course provided a challenge.

Day one unfurled with a solitary race, a gentle prelude to the tempest that lay ahead. The winds played coy, light, and wispy, with a swell as grand as the Pacific itself surging from the south-southwest. Yet, beneath this deceptive tranquility, a northerly tidal current ran strong, a silent undercurrent that would test the finesse of every Finnster.

On day two, the sea bore its teeth, whipping up waves that danced with a ferocity not expected on the shores of Newport Beach. Winds howled between twelve to eighteen knots, a force to be reckoned with, driving in from the north-northwest against an outgoing tide and north current, rip tide and beach warnings. Inland there were high wind warnings. Four races unfolded, each one a testament to the endurance and physical fitness of the sailors who challenged the elements.

Then came the decisive day three, where the capricious winds of 6-8 kts chose their own course, blowing ever so lightly from the south-southwest. A swell, fourteen seconds apart, introduced a maddening rhythm into the fray, with the 15-degree wind shift at the bottom and the top of the swell. Here, the left-hand side of the course proved to be the favorite, luring the fleet in pursuit of elusive advantage.

In the crucible of competition, three sailors stood tall. **James Golden**, fresh from his 2023 Silver Cup triumph and a commendable sixth place at the 2023 Finn Gold Cup. **Rodion Mazin**, no stranger to victory, parlayed his 2021 USA Finn National Championship and 2022 North American Championship into a fierce challenge. **Erik Lidecis**, the 2022 USA Finn National Champion and 2013 Finn Master Worlds Silver Medalist, Finished third.

The regatta drew the Finn sailors from the length and breadth of the United States, a testament to the prestige of the event. From the shores of Annapolis, MD to the Great Lakes, Austin, TX, San Diego, CA and Grasham, OR, the sailors converged to face a well practiced Los Angeles Area squad, and a dozen boats from the host, NHYC.

James Bland
4612 Finley Drive
Austin TX 78731

865-406-9572
jbland@me.com



Ensign Fleet Report by Molly Isbell



Whenever it's my turn to write the Ensign Fleet article, it doesn't take long to come up with plenty of great topics to cover, and there is always something to celebrate. This month is no exception, and I'll get to the celebratory and fun fleet-specific topics in a minute. But I wanted to begin by acknowledging that this has been a tough year for several members of the Ensign fleet who have lost family

members. Most recently, our hearts were broken by the loss of **Kelly Hawk**. Kelly loved AYC and especially the Ensign fleet, and her loss leaves a hole in all of us. We can't stop the sadness, but we can honor her memory, and the memory of all those who are no longer physically part of the AYC family, by making the most of the time that we get to spend here at AYC and with our AYC friends. This place and the friends we have here are gifts. Even when it's blistering hot and the lake is low, we're pretty lucky to have this beautiful spot on Lake Travis where we can still get to our boats (thanks to a lot of work by a small team of people who make sure that remains true), and where we still have great sailboat racing (thanks to many volunteers who make series races and regattas happen), and where we have fun together (thanks to members who organize family fun days and Fleet Challenges and after-race parties and friends who are always up for jumping in the lake with a cold beer on a hot afternoon after racing, and fellow Club members who are willing to re-hash the races that just happened or can't wait to either tell you or listen to you tell them about the next big regatta coming up). Even when it's not perfect, we are lucky to be here and to have each other to be here with. I believe that recognizing and celebrating that is a tribute to those who aren't physically here anymore. So, in honor of **Kelly Hawk** (and, for me, **David Lewis**, and I know that each of you has your own list of names), here's the rest of my article celebrating our fleet's most recent events

First, congratulations to the Ensign Fleet for winning the 2023 Fleet Challenge! This was definitely a team win! Thanks to generous donations from the entire fleet, some fortunate timing that allowed us to



Johannes Brinkmann presenting the Bernstein-Brinkmann award to Ensign Fleet reps, L-R: Molly Isbell, Tom Groll, Anne & David Morley, Annie & Charlie Lancaster, and Sara, Margaret and Everett Faust Photo by Marilyn Jackson



Tom Groll and Annie Lancaster celebrating the Ensign victory. Photo by Molly Isbell

scoop up matching funds, as well as strategic betting in the Calcutta auction by the Ensigns (and great sailing by the **Sela girls**), we took 1st in the total dollars category. Then **Tom Groll**, with crew **Bill Hawk** and **Molly Isbell**, sailed **J Seagull** to a 1st place finish in the Friday Night Beer Can race (assisted in part by donations that bought us an early start).

Team Ensign also had a good showing by **Annie Lancaster** and **Anne Morely** in the 420 racing, which kept us in the hunt. But the clincher was the games. **Bill Hawk** jumped in and won first place in

some kind of egg throwing competition. That gave us a few tokens for our fleet, which inspired us to attempt (unsuccessfully) to win some more tokens in a spirited tug-of-war with the J80 fleet. Just when we were ready to resign ourselves to a back-of-the-pack finish after the tug-of-war loss, **Margaret & Everett Faust** saved the day. They won way more games tokens than any of the adults and decided (possibly with some encouragement from their mom) to put all their chips in the Ensign pot and convinced a bunch of their friends to do the same, giving us a 1st place games finish that made us the overall winners for the Fleet Challenge. It was a fun event and, most importantly, raised funds to support sailboat racing. Way to go Ensigns!

The other big September news for our fleet is the recently completed Regional Championship at the Houston Yacht Club.



Dos Locos team, L-R: Graham Gilmour, Susy Ortega, Mike Murphy, Lewis Price and Brent Horsely Photo by Graham Gilmour



Marie Snidow and Carolynne Griffin enjoying the evening at HYC. Photo by Molly Isbell

Fleet 30 was well represented with three boats competing - 578 (Tom Groll, Bill Hawk, Molly Isbell), 588 (George Dahmen, Ann Kitzmiller, Franz Dahmen, and Lynn Jaeger) and 929 (Lewis Price, Graham Gilmour, Susy Ortega, Brent Horsely, and Mike Murphy) - plus

continued next page

our cheering section and party crew, **Carolynne Griffin and Marie Snidow!** It was a great weekend of sailing and hanging out with friends. Even the sitting around waiting to see if the wind would fill in included lots of laughter, camaraderie, snacks, and card games. On the racing front, the wind was mostly light and shifty, but we managed to complete five races over three days. **George Dahmen and crew** walked away with 1st place, with the other AYC boats finishing somewhere behind them. Congratulations George and team - it was a well-earned victory!



Team Stijf Kop accepting their 1st place trophy. L-R: Franz Dahmen, Ann Kitzmiller, HYC presenter, George Dahmen, Lynn Jaeger Photo by Molly Isbell



George Dahmen with the Nazro Cup Photo by Molly Isbell



New trophy box for the Ensign Region IV Nazro Cup trophy, built by Tom Groll Photo by Molly Isbell

Living the Dream by Nelson Reynolds

Part 5



I guess one of these days I may just stop numbering these and just say "continued". Always a possibility. Well, I had made it back to Austin (and the heat!!), and took care of some chores around the house. But soon enough I was headed back to Washington.

One of the things about having a boat in salt water is you need to pay a lot closer attention to bottom maintenance, zincs, etc. I knew the bottom paint was due to be refreshed as the indicator coat was just starting to show through during the survey.

I had a diver go down and brush the crud from the hull and check the zincs. He said the prop shaft zinc was gone which meant a quick trip to West Marine for a new zinc while he finished up the hull. Afterward, he confirmed the indicator coat was showing through quite a bit, but that he also found a gouge in the port side of the keel. Oops. I seem to remember finding some rocks while sailing over to check out a boat on a mooring that looked cool. The depth sounder never showed below 12 feet, but the keel let me know there was an obstruction. The actual formation reminded me a lot of the great wall on Lake Travis.

I guess I should explain what I mean by an indicator coat of bottom paint. I currently have an ablative paint, Micron CSC. Ablative means it wears away over time. So, the bottom has a couple base coats on CSC in red. I then have a couple coats of blue on top of that base coat. When the red starts to show through I know it's time to have the bottom paint refreshed. That's why it is an indicator.

So now it was time to find a boatyard. Well, first find the boatyard and find out how quickly I could get on their schedule. Now there are few boatyards that will allow you to do your own work, but I didn't think that was workable with me having to split time between Austin and Seattle. I also didn't want to spend a couple months or so working on the boat when I could be sailing. I found one yard that was reasonable in price and had an opening within a few weeks.

I booked a flight up to spend a few days getting the boat ready to head to the boat yard. I managed to install the last 2 solar panels and get them wired in. Then it was time to cruise down to Gig Harbor to the boatyard. From Bremerton to Gig Harbor is about a 5-hour cruise or so. There wasn't a whole lot of wind, so I ended up motoring the entire way. I did see a group of immature porpoises playing in front of me at one point. I tried to take a video of that but found out I had accidentally shut off the recording as I was moving the camera. <sigh> I did also pass a number of sailboats trying to race. It kind of reminded me of some of the days on Lake Travis, bobbing along praying for a puff of wind.

Otherwise, it was pretty much an uneventful cruise down to the boatyard. They had left me an open slip to overnight in to be ready to get her pulled out the next morning. As side note, Gig Harbor got its name from Captain Cook. Evidently, the good captain came ashore in the harbor there in a boat and was reported to have said that for a harbor it was only big enough to fit a captain's gig, not a real ship. And the name stuck. I will say the entrance is rather narrow, which was exacerbated by the fact that I was arriving about low tide. Fun stuff. After tying the boat up I walked up the hill to a local restaurant and had some supper and a couple adult beverages.

continued next page

The next morning, it was time to have her lifted out. I was thinking I could get her in, except a cross breeze was starting to blow. So, I went up to the office and asked if I could get some assistance getting the boat in position as with my 3/4 keel she really didn't like to back up, especially with a cross breeze. The manager said he was confident he could get her in as he had driven all sorts of watercraft, up to nuclear aircraft carriers. (The USS Nimitz was one...)

We boarded the boat and cast off the dock. I moved her out a bit to get some maneuvering room and he asked if I would like to have him take over. I said sure!! It looked like he was going to immediately try to back in. I suggested that we get a bit more room so he could see how she handles in reverse. Well, he tried to line her up to the opening and after a few minutes he commented "she really doesn't like to go backwards". We ended up going in forward and getting some assistance to help us spin her around. This does point out that you should be familiar with how your boat handles and don't try to push things beyond your or your boat's capabilities.

We got the boat pulled and did a quick survey and they said it should be ready by the end of the month. I thought, great, I can ride back up on my Harley and meet some people on the way. But, darn it, they got done early!! So I booked a quick flight back up to get my boat and avoid racking up storage fees at the yard. BTW, I found out Alaska Air has direct flights between Seattle and Austin!! And they are codeshare with American Airlines, where I have my frequent flyer miles.

So, a quick flight back up to get the boat and pay for the work. She did seem quicker with the fresh bottom, and the knot/log was working again! Then it was time to head back to Austin to plan the ride up on the motorcycle for a more extended stay to see how well the solar panels and wind generator do for keeping the house battery bank charged up.

A quick final note on bottom paint. I currently have an ablative paint, which seems to be decent since I do spend a lot of time in the marina. Before going offshore for extended passages, I plan on replacing that with a hard paint. From what I've seen the hard paints work well if you keep moving but tend to gunk up if you are sitting still. I am also hearing that copper based antifoulants are going to be banned, similar to what happened to the TBT paints we used to know and love. I am also hearing some noise about a movement to ban ablative paints altogether, but that may be more of a local issue up here.

Nice and peaceful up here. For reference I'm sitting on a mooring at a state park that is only accessible by boat as I write this. ☺ (BTW, the guy that helped me bring the boat in to the lift pulled me aside later and told me how much he really loved my boat).



Fresh bottom, ready to launch



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore	Russ Shermer
Immed. Past Commodore	Anne Morley
Vice Commodore	Bill Hawk
Secretary	Lynn Jaeger
Treasurer	David Jamail
Race Commander	Kurt Carson
B & G Commander	Jeff Sabuda
Harbor Commander	Tom Groll
Sail Training Commander	Linda McDavitt

AYC STAFF

General Manager	Jackie Wheelless
Head Caretaker	Tom Cunningham
Assistant Caretaker	Kyle McGhee
Youth Sailing Director	Zach Steuer

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

5906 Beacon Drive
Austin, TX 78734-1428

Office: 512-266-1336

E-MAIL AND WEBSITE

www.austinyachtclub.net
office@austinyachtclub.net

NEWSLETTER

Susie McDonald, Editor
ghowiellc@gmail.com

AYC BUSINESS HOURS

Wednesday - Sunday 9:00A - 5:00P
CLOSED MONDAY AND TUESDAY
Clubhouse Hours 9:00A - 10:00P

Closed Club Holidays:
New Year's Day January 1

Easter Sunday April 9
Independence Day July 4
Thanksgiving Day November 23
Shopping Day November 24
Christmas Day December 25

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

AYC Sep/Oct 2023 Race Calendar

Wednesday Sunfish & Laser Racing	9/27
Fall Roundup Regatta	9/30
MultiFest Regatta	10/14-15
Fall Series	10/21-22, 28-29, 11/4-5, 11-12, 18-19*
SEISA Women's & Open Fleet Racing	10/28-29

* Saturdays: Ensign, J/22, J24, Pearson 26, PRF-A, PRF-B, Centerboard
Sundays: J/80, Multihull

AYC Sep/Oct 2023 Non-Racing Events

AYC Board Meeting	9/28	7:30-9:30pm
Adult Next Step Dinghy Sailing in FJs	Oct Saturday Mornings	9:00am-12:00pm
Adult Basic Racing in FJs	Oct Sunday Mornings	9:00am-12:00pm
Adult Beginning Sailing in FJs	10/7, 14, 21	2:00-5:00pm
ASA 101 Public Classes	10/7-8	9:00am-5:30pm
Discover Sailing	10/15	1:00-5:00pm
AYC Board Meeting	10/26	7:30-9:30pm

October Youth Sailing

Opti 1 Practice	Sundays 10:00am-12:30pm, Saturdays 3:00-5:00pm
Opti 2 Practice	Saturdays 10:00am-1:00pm
Opti 3 Practice	Wednesdays 5:00-7:30pm, Saturdays 9:00-1:00pm
Junior Sgl/Dbl-Handed Practice	Sundays 2:00-5:00pm
High School A-Team Practice	Thursdays & Fridays 5:00-7:00pm
High School B-Team Practice	Mondays & Tuesdays 5:00-7:00pm

Boat Christening and First Sail. What a day!



Brandon & Emily Jakobeit with daughter Lilian on "Stealthy Cat" their new-to-them Pearson 26 (named by Lilian). Photo by Bill Records