



WE'RE RACING!

Spring Series: Sun, Wind and WATER

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ting Off to a Good Start
by Jim Johnstone

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Save the Dates

Beer Can Races Start 4/6

Summer Series

4/28, 5/05, 5/12, 6/09, 6/16



Cover Photos by Bruce McDonald

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
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| Bookkeeper | Pam Radebaugh |
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| Junior Coach | Kate Noble |

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

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info@austinyachtclub.org

NEWSLETTER

Susie McDonald, Editor
Email submissions by 1st of month to:
ghowiellc@aol.com

AYC BUSINESS HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 9:00A - 5:00P
Sunday 1:00P - 5:00P

Closed Mondays

Closed Club Holidays:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| New Year's Day | January 1 |
| Easter Sunday | April 24 |
| Independence Day | July 4 |
| Thanksgiving Day | November 24 |
| Shopping Day | November 25 |
| Christmas Day | December 25 |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS E-MAIL ADDRESSES

buildings_grounds@austinyachtclub.net
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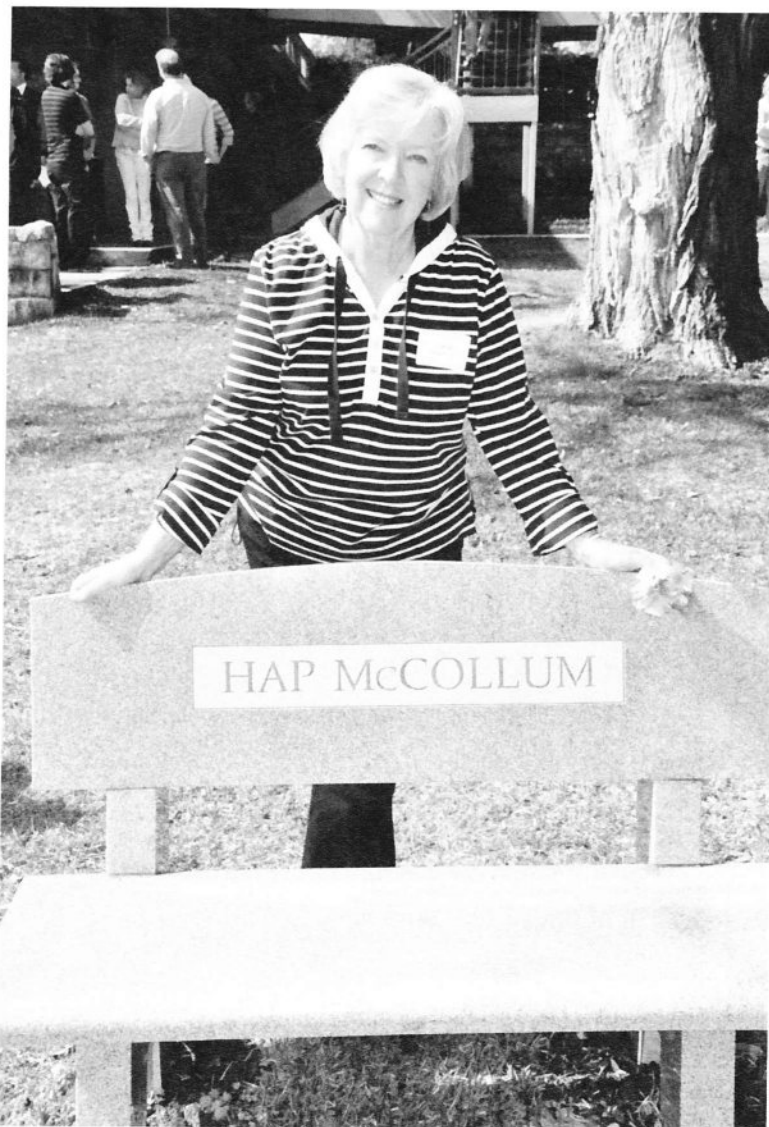
AYC 2012 RACE CALENDAR

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| April 7-8 | Easter Laser Regatta |
| April 15 | Spring Series #4 (C-22) |
| April 22 | Spring Series #5 (PHRF-A) |
| April 28 | Summer Series #1 (PHRF-B) 1:30 start |
| May 5 | Summer Series #2 (Non-Spin) |
| May 15 | Summer Series #3 (Multi-Hull) |

YOU MAY SIGN UP ONLINE FOR SERIES RACES THROUGH "REGATTA NETWORK."

AYC 2012 NON-RACING EVENTS

| | |
|--------------|---|
| April 15, 22 | AYC Racing School Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas 9:00a |
| April 14 | Starting and Tactics Clinic Scott Young 1:00p |
| April 26 | Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p |
| April 29 | Motorboat Training Class 1:00p |
| May 19 | Keelboat Adult Learn to Sail Class |



Hap McCollum Memorial Bench Dedicated at Opening Day Ceremony, March 11, 2012

The Hap McCollum memc bench was dedicated during the 2012 Opening Day ceremony. Carol McCollum (pictured left) and family members of Hap participated in the dedication of the bench in Hap's honor.

More Opening Day photos inside this issue!

From The Commodore

by Johannes Brinkmann



On the Rise

Looking out at the lake recently I was struck by how much more beautiful the very same view is when the water is rising, than last year when it was falling! I can't think of a better reward for **Jon Nash** and the harbor committee's efforts constructing the east point ramp, than for their work to be promptly submerged.

Given Harbor Committee's tremendous success in making the lake come up, Building and Grounds Commander **John Saunders** and his committee will now try their luck with grading and gravel improvements to make the second and third level terraces on the east point more accessible and usable.

I'm thrilled to be able to use the north ramp again, that Beer Can racing has begun, that **Jr. Coach Kate Noble** facilitates open sailing for families and kids on Sunday afternoons at the Junior Pavilion, and that Wednesday night Sunfish and Laser races are just around the corner. I'm equally excited about the many great events coming to AYC soon. Vice Commodore **Christopher Dwight** and Turnback Regatta Chair **Wade Bingaman** are cooking up a new low water format for Turnback that no one will want to miss. All shore-based activities will take place on the AYC grounds and we will race in the wider areas on our end of the lake. There will be a beach party and music festival out on the point with multiple bands taking part including AYC's very own "Shoal Brothers!"

College Nationals will begin the day after Turnback ends. Event chair **Vic Manning**, Race Commander **Barry Bowden** and UTST president **Luke Cragin** are hard at work with preparations for this important event. Look for the spectator schedule in this edition of the Telltale, and mark your calendar to come out and watch. No doubt, you'll witness some of the best sailboat racing ever to take place on Lake Travis.

The day after College Nationals end, the AYC summer camps begin. Sail Training Commander **Jenny Loehlin** and Junior Coach **Kate Noble** are in the thick of planning, identifying staff and making preparations. Please help out by talking up the summer camp with your friends who have kids ages 8-16. These camps offer an outstanding sailing experience, and one of the most important things we do as sailors is introduce more kids to the sport!

Speaking of promoting our sport, in the coming weeks you will be seeing mail and e-mail correspondence from AYC and US Sailing encouraging you to renew your membership or join US Sailing. US Sailing has asked 30 leading US sailing clubs to help test a membership initiative that will fuel US Sailing's support and promotion of our sport. I encourage you to check out US Sailing's website and blog at <http://ussailing.blogspot.com/>. For example, the weekly "Chalk Talk" there will help you get up to speed with what's opening at the various college teams heading into the nationals.

The April issue of *BoatU.S. Magazine* includes a story about how AYC has met the challenges of the low water on Lake Travis. The story is called "No Water? No Problem!" Here's the link if you'd

like to take a look: <http://www.boatus.com/magazine/2012/april/NoWaterNoProblem.asp>

Finally, one of the reasons our lake is rising is because of public interest and input into LCRA's decision making process regarding water releases. We will begin our next board meeting (April 26, 7:30 pm) with a presentation by **Conrad Werkenthin**, who will share his expertise regarding new developments in Texas water law, planning and management. This will be a unique opportunity to learn more about a topic that is important to all of us who depend on Lake Travis for water and recreation. I hope to see you there, and on the water.

Vice Commodore Report

by Christopher Dwight



A Wealth of Activity

A busy time for AYC is just around the corner. Over the next three months, AYC will host our annual Turnback Canyon Regatta, immediately followed by the Intercollegiate Sailing Association National Championship, followed by summer camps and PB&J. During this same time, our club racing activities will be ramping

up with the return of Friday Night Beer Can racing, Wednesday night Sunfish/Laser racing, and ongoing series races including the conclusion of the Spring Series followed shortly thereafter by the Summer Series. Speaking of "ramping up," the lake has risen enough to provide approximately nine feet of water over the end of our north ramp extension, allowing nearly any dry sailed boat access to the water. This windfall will further increase participation and activity out at your club in the coming months!

Wade Bingaman has graciously agreed to chair the 2012 Turnback Canyon Regatta, and he has a great plan in store that will ensure plenty of good racing and good times regardless of the lake level. With no guarantee of additional rain, we have decided to make a command decision and not race all the way to Turnback with a stay-over at the Bar-K. **Barry Bowden** took the effort to drive up the lake and survey the situation ... if we get no additional lake rise, the race course becomes excessively narrow and there is no good moorage in the vicinity of Turnback Canyon Cove. Barry even checked with one of the marinas up the lake to see if they would host the event with guest boats rafting up, but they declined. The Turnback event requires many weeks of advanced planning, and we cannot afford to gamble the event (and its associated costs) on the slim chance that our lake will rise significantly further.

Although we will have to break with tradition on format, we fully expect to maintain the tradition of fun! **Wade** has devised a great plan that will ensure great sailing, great fun and plenty of participation. On Saturday we plan to conduct a long distance race starting near AYC, sailing towards the vicinity of Lakeway as a turning mark, and returning to finish near AYC.

continued next page

After the race we plan on a beach party down on the expansive AYC point with great food, beer and live music. We hope that many participants will stay overnight on boats rafted to AYC docks, or in tents along the grounds for those with smaller boats. Sunday we will start with breakfast / brunch followed by a shorter race in the vicinity of AYC. With the Collegiate event starting only a few days later, we are hoping to gain some synergies and make use of the large tent that UT will be erecting.

As always, the 2012 Turnback Regatta will be an open event, and we are hoping that non-AYC sailors from the area will come and participate. The Notice of Regatta and posters will be appearing as this issue of Telltale is published. You can help drive participation by telling your sailing friends that AYC will indeed have another great event this Memorial Day weekend. I hope to see you out at the club.

Race Commander Report

by Barry Bowden



Top Ten Excuses Not to Race Turnback Canyon Regatta

1. I can't remember how many times I have raced this race.
2. It is too far to drive to leave a car.
3. There is never any wind.
4. My boat's too small.
5. I can't sleep on my boat.
6. I can't find my anchor.
7. There are midnight anchor drills.
8. The head on my boat doesn't work.
9. I might run out of ice and beer before I finish on Sunday.
10. My wife wants me home on Saturday night.

Well, to all of you who want to use at least one or more of these excuses, the Austin Yacht Club has provided you with an answer. This year we will be having our First Annual Memorial Day Race Event which will allow you to avoid all of these wonderful excuses and come join us for a great weekend at the Austin Yacht Club.

We will be having a race on Saturday that will allow you to go up the lake to see that there really is still water in Lake Travis, and return the same day to the comfort of your own slip. There will be a kickass party when you return with crawfish, music and who knows what else.

You will have the opportunity to party until you almost drop and then move back to your comfortably docked boat and sleep it off, or return home for a good night's sleep in your own bed. There will be no need for an anchor, no midnight anchor drills, comfortable rest room facilities available. Plenty of ice will be available.

The next morning you will return (or wake up in your safely tied-up boat) and we will have another nice race that won't last quite as long as the previous day's (in case you are a bit tired). There will be trophies and hamburgers available for all who care to take the trouble to join us. Please plan on joining in on the fun and you can

tell everyone that you were there for the First Annual Memorial Day Race Event at the Austin Yacht Club in the years to come.

The Spring Series is proceeding quite nicely. We have been able to have all of our one design fleets back sailing their customary starts and races. Being a typical spring, we have had two nice windy days and one day of not so much wind. Everyone seems to be enjoying the races, along with the great food and fellowship after the race.

I would like everyone to be aware of the upcoming college sailing events to be held at Austin Yacht Club. There will be qualifiers for the National Championships on April 14-15, April 21-22, and May 5-6. This is all leading up to the 2012 Intercollegiate Sailing Championships to be held at our club beginning May 30 until June 8. This is your opportunity to come out to the club and watch the best collegiate sailors in the United States. There will be future Olympic team members in this group of talented sailors. Come see them before they are famous.

There is another motorboat training class scheduled for Sunday, April 29. Please register at Regatta Network and join us in learning more about proper use of our AYC power boats.

Sail Training Report

by Jenny Loehlin



Roadrunner practices are going strong, despite both kinds of wind issues. **Coach Kate** manages to come up with creative activities appropriate to the conditions. Thanks to all those who have worked to keep the sail training dock mostly accessible by land as lake has come up.

Plans aren't finalized yet, but we are looking at having an Opti start for Turnback, since we're not going to Lago Vista this year.

Our first adult sail training activity of the year, **John Bartlett's** spinnaker clinic, wound up with essentially no wind, but John did a good job of adapting to the circumstances, and the participants learned a lot. We may try again later in the year. It's great to have such talented sailors at the club who are willing to share their expertise.

The first adult beginner class is scheduled for May 19. Keep it in mind if you have friends, family members, neighbors, coworkers or others in your circle interested in learning to sail. I'm also looking for instructors – please contact me if you are interested. There will be an intermediate class on May 20 – watch for further information. It's a non-racing weekend except for the South Coasts.

It's starting to feel like summer – camp and PB&J are coming up! By the time this comes out, registration should be up and running.

Thanks to **Steve Brown** for his work on fixing up the Picos, which appear possibly at some point to have had some contact with the rocks and stumps. I'm sure all of our sail training boats have tales to tell.

Treasurer Report

by Don Dwight



Money Milestones & Big Plans!

Your club reached an important milestone last month, crossing the half a million mark in banked reserves! Reserves are what fund the club's day-to-day operations, the many capital improvements you see going on, and carry us over the lean months when the bills are bigger than our revenues. It's the club's savings

account. We have these savings today thanks to all of you. The periodic dues and harbor storage increases you have born these last few years have enabled us to shore up the club's finances. This year's 3% dues increase, \$2 per month for most members, helps us keep pace with inflation on our operating costs rather than dip into our capital reserves to run the club as was done some years in the past. Thank you, one and all.

Last year was a record year for capital improvements at the club. We spent \$375,000 on everything from two new docks to new paint for the cabins, resurfaced the pool, new pool furniture and even replaced the caretaker's truck. We accomplished part of this through financing which allowed us to fund some big ticket improvements AND maintain our reserves. The FY2012 capital budget includes an even more ambitious slate of \$397,000 in planned improvements. Some are already evident – a new tractor, the steel ramp, the new mast step pole. We passed the FY2012 capital improvements spending contingent on obtaining some additional financing. By carefully injecting debt into the funding, the club is able to tackle big ticket improvements like access and still maintain an adequate level of savings to meet contingencies or opportunities as they present themselves. How much savings is enough is a great question which I'll defer to a future column.

Your board has spent many hours wrestling with questions like "What is the right mix of debt and capital reserves?", "Should we reach out to the membership for financing, and if so, on what terms?" Let me share some of our thinking with you and solicit your input. Right now, the club generates approximately \$180,000 in capital reserves each year. That is enough to replace one dock with some spare change left over for the occasional roof repair, some paint or an ice machine. By introducing debt, we can make improvements quicker. The catch is that future debt service payments come out of the same pool of capital reserve funds. This limits the total amount of debt we can take on. If we tinker with the term and interest rates, we can optimize the capacity without binding future boards to a stream of debt service payments that leave no room for anything else they might like to improve.

For now, we have set an artificial limit of 50% leverage, meaning no more than half the average year's capital reserves can be dedicated to debt service. This is subject to change as we refine our analysis, but that would imply approximately \$90,000 in debt service in the average year. We believe the ideal mix would be to put a portion of the debt on a 10 year term with the bank and the balance over a five year term with those members interested. In our analysis, we have used a 5% interest rate on member financing in loan increments of \$25,000. This is about 1% less

than our current cost of capital with Wells Fargo Bank, but several points above what most members might earn in a money market account. We can service approximately \$250,000 in short term notes at that rate, or about 10 loans to members. The actual total will depend in part on whether we can refinance our existing WFB loan over a 10 year term, and possibly add another \$50,000 to \$70,000 to it. The combination of the payment streams on the WFB debt and member loans would approximately equal the \$90,000 leverage model we are trying to maintain. It would also provide approximately \$300,000 in funding needed for this year's proposed capital improvements. Let me stop there and suggest that if any of you are interested in participating in the member financing, please reach out to me (treasurer@austinyachtclub.net), **Barry Bowden** (racecommander@austinyachtclub.net) or **Johannes Brinkmann** (commodore@austinyachtclub.net). Alternatively, the AYC office has our contact phone numbers. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and can provide you with draft loan agreements, terms, and an amortization schedule that would outline the repayment schedule for you.

Thanks again for your support in building a financially stronger club. See you on the water!

Building & Grounds Report

by John Saunders



There are always a few more things happening at the club and Mother Nature continually provides challenges. We get used to the lake level at 626 feet ... and it goes up to 640 feet. Less parking, more waves and we have a real ramp that can be used! Participation goes up with the lake level. The club changes and remains the same, and it's always a work in progress.

We will be grading a walkway on the point to facilitate the UT event this summer. It will also help during Turnback Canyon events. The area east of the wind sock will be cleaned up as well. As we order rock to make these walks and accesses, the cost of each load brings to mind the value of the structure of our property. Several years ago, we paid for many truckloads of stone to stabilize the south side of the point. We built steps and placed large stones to stop erosion. This took both a lot of volunteer time and considerable money. These past two years many more loads and much time has been devoted to improving and stabilizing the point. Please remember – removing a couple of large stones for personal use seems trivial; however each stone helps slow erosion, improve access (steps) and provide resources for the next project, all of which was paid for by the members collectively for the use by and enjoyment of all members. Please refrain from taking any of these materials for personal use. If each member took a few rocks home, we would soon have none.

Note: Your trailers on the club property must be identified with your name and "AYC" on the tongue of the trailer. Both sides are better. Trailers, whether empty or loaded, must be kept in assigned spaces. Harbor Committee and Building & Grounds will begin to mark trailers and charge owners. This is club policy. Please help by identifying your equipment and parking it in designated spaces.

2012 TURNBACK CANYON



REGATTA • BEACH PARTY • MUSIC FEST • CRAWFISH BOIL

DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON TURNBACK!

Why? Because it's going to be way different this year!

We are not racing to Lago Vista. With the lake level so low, the decision has been made to hold the regatta in the main basin on the club's end of the lake. No need this year to fight storms or no wind to go up and back the 20 miles each way.

Does that mean it will be just like all the other regattas at the club? Not by a long shot!

While the low water has caused us problems, it has given us a very large beach area off the point. Which is exactly where we are going to have a very large beach party. There will be tents, torches and limbo. A crawfish boil will be the meal. Oh, and did I mention there will be music? A music festival, in fact. There are already at least five groups lined up to entertain us throughout the evening with music for all tastes.

So mark your calendar for Memorial Day weekend – May 26 & 27. I guarantee you it will be a regatta to remember. Well, maybe you won't remember it, but your friends will tell you that you had a great time.

– Wade Bingaman, Turnback Canyon Regatta Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College Nationals Schedule

A Women's National Championship: May 30 – June 2
The Women's National Championship consists of two rounds of fleet racing in FJs. 18 teams from around the country qualify to compete in the first round on May 30 – 31, and the top nine teams from the first round go on to compete in the final round with nine other teams from around the country that advance directly to the final round. The final round will be June 1 – 2. Races will start around 10:00 AM each day and conclude around 5:00 PM.

ICSA Team Racing National Championship: June 3 – 5
14 college teams qualify for the Team Racing National Championship. This three-day event consists of 3X3 team racing on a collegiate "N" course. This is perhaps the most action-packed event out of the three with races starting roughly every 10 minutes. RC will set the course close to shore so spectators can watch the intense mark roundings and constantly changing positions. Races will start around 10:00 AM each day and conclude around 5:00 PM.

ICSA Coed Dinghy Championship: June 6 – 8
Prior to the Coed Dinghy Championship, 36 college teams from around the country will qualify to compete in the ICSA Coed Dinghy Semi-Finals in Miami, FL. The top 18 teams advance to compete in the Coed Dinghy Championship in Austin. This event will consist of three days of fleet racing between the top collegiate sailors in country. This is definitely one you don't want to miss. Races will start around 10:00 AM each day and conclude around 5:00 PM.

SEISA District Championship Schedule

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| April 14-15 | Coed Dinghy Championships |
| April 21-22 | Women's Dinghy Championships |
| May 5-6 | Team Racing Championships |

How Are We Doing? Complete the Online Survey.

AYC is running a survey of our 400+ members to get feedback on your priorities as input to the long-range plan. Please complete the survey by April 22. After the survey closes, you'll receive a summary of the findings. To access the survey, go to austinyachtclub.net and click on the link in the "News" box on the upper right.

Thanks for your input! If you have any questions, please contact **Doug Kern** at doug_kern@yahoo.com.

WELCOME!

New Members
Brian Jones, Young Adult
Hugh Robertson, Senior

April 26 Board Meeting Features Conrad Werkenthin on "Water Rights"

One of the reasons our lake is rising is because of public interest and input into LCRA's decision making process regarding water releases. We will begin our next board meeting (April 26, 7:30 pm) with a presentation by **Conrad Werkenthin**, who will share his expertise regarding new developments in Texas water law, planning and management. This will be a unique opportunity to learn more about a topic that is important to all of us who depend on Lake Travis for water and recreation.

Junior Summer Sailing Camps

Registration is now open for AYC's Junior Summer Sailing Camps and our PB&J Program.

The 2012 Junior Summer Sailing Camp schedule has been posted to the AYC Calendar starting June 11, 2012. Click "Summer Camp" on the left margin to see the camp dates, cost and registration information.

AYC member camp applications received prior to May 1 will be given first priority to the session they select. Non-Member applications received prior to May 1 will be given second priority to the session they select. On or after May 1, all applications will be given equal priority based on the date and time received.

The PB&J Saturday morning sessions information is on the AYC Roadrunners website: <http://aycroadrunners.org/programs/pbj/>

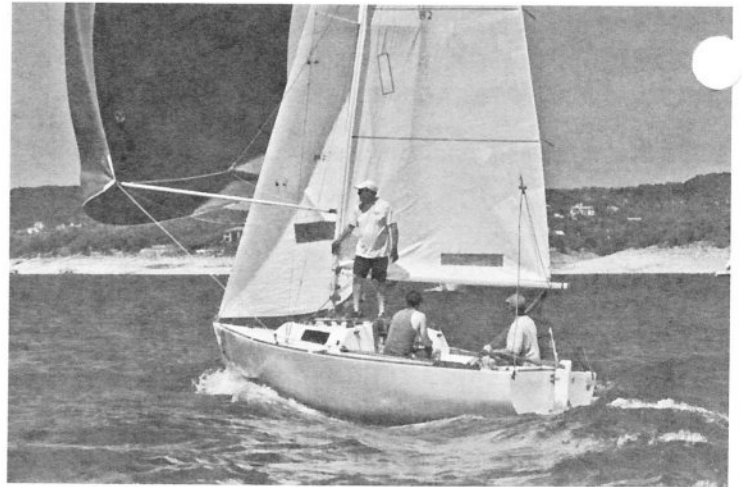
PBJ is a junior sailing class for kids 4-10 years old. The classes are held on Saturday mornings in the summer at the Austin Yacht Club, using the fleet of Optimist and Pico sailboats.

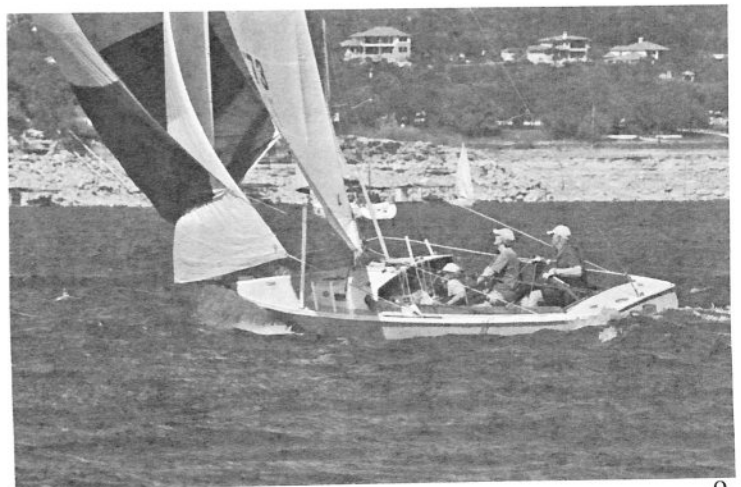
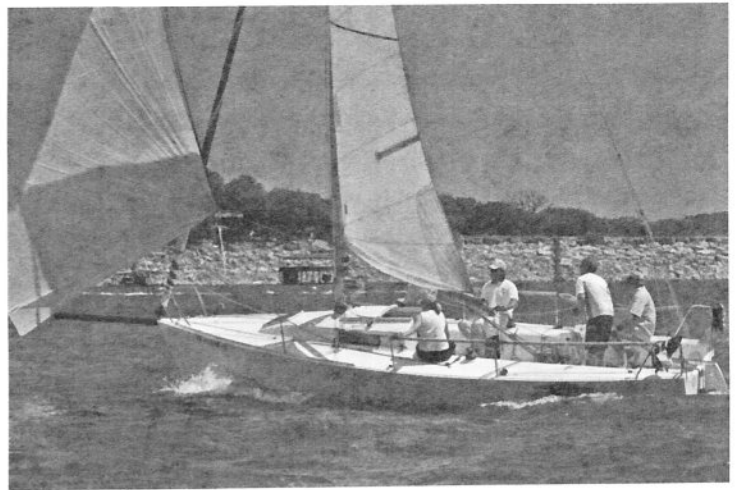
AYC members and non-members are welcome, so please spread the word. Parents are needed to help with setting up boats and cleaning up.



duckwatch88@yahoo.com
We're watching!

SPRING SERIES #3





Roadrunner Update

by Kate Noble

The temperature (and the lake!) is rising and the Roadrunners are back out on the water. Our regular season started this month with the return of our Thursday evening Basics & Beginners and Saturday Laser classes. The Green Fleet has continued to show improvements following their February pre-season and the Roadrunner Regatta. The March weather has provided them with opportunities to work on both heavy and light wind sailing. They've been hiking hard one week and paddling the next!

The addition of Free Sail Sundays into the Junior Sailing Program has been a big hit. Thank you to all the families who have come out in the past month to make it such a success. All AYC families and junior sailors are welcome to come down to the Rylander Pavilion on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 pm to use our Sail Training Optis, Picos, Lasers, and Sunfish. FJs will be available on Free Sail Sundays following the ICSA Nationals. I will be on the dock to oversee, assist with rigging and launching, and ensure everyone has a safe and fun experience.

Our weekly schedule for Spring 2012 is as follows:

Thursdays: Basics & Beginners 4:00 to 6:30

Saturdays: Green Fleet Racing 1:30 to 4:00; Lasers 4:00 to 6:30

Sundays: Free Sail 1:00 to 4:00

If you are interested in getting involved and/or would like more information about the Roadrunner program, please contact me at jrcoach@austinyachtclub.net.

Summer is around the corner and I am looking forward to serving as 2012's camp administrator. Registration and information about our camps is now available on the Austin Yacht Club website. This year, the camps have been pushed back to accommodate the ICSA Nationals at the end of May and beginning of June. Our four week-long sessions will be: June 11-15, June 18-22, June 25-29, and July 9-13. A reminder to the Roadrunners, that we will NOT be holding weekly practices while camp is in session so sign on up!

For those adults who wish they could attend summer camp, you are in luck! There are still camp employment opportunities available. We are in need of an experienced sailor over the age of 21 to be our head counselor. If you, or someone you know, are interested, please contact me.

SC21 Fleet Update

by Carl Wiseman

The spring series was successfully kicked off with excellent participation by the South Coast fleet. **Bruce McDonald** won both of the Series I races (but only two boats participated that week). Series race II was far more interesting with four boats making the start.

Hugh Robertson and his son **Jackson** raced their newly purchased South Coast and took third place, while **Ravi** and **Scott Bryan** won the only race called that day. **Bruce McDonald** came in with a very close second place – **Ravi** was observed sweating profusely from the pressure. **Carl Wiseman** and **Jim Gray** exceeded expectations and trailed the last finisher by less than their stated goal of 10 minutes (they have different success criteria from others at the club).



SC21 race committee, Spring Series Race III

For Series Race III, there was good participation from the fleet members for the critical RC task, and the event was nearly pulled off without incident. In the category of sailing news of the weird, during the finish of race 2, there occurred a wind shift that resulted in the committee boat narrowing the gap at the finish to a very short 25 yards or so. While the RC team worked assiduously to create a



more suitable finish zone, a snake came out of nowhere and attempted to board the boat. Screams were heard, and several witnesses in the area claimed that they were sure they did not come from the snake. It was noted by all that the snake brazenly displayed a "hoodie" at which time a chill ran down everyone's spine.

A minor glancing blow was given as a warning not to board; however, this seemed to only infuriate the creature. At the same time, boats, angered at the narrowed finish line, were expressing serious safety concerns thinking that the RC committee would actually really care what they thought – there was a life and death struggle that took priority on the port aft of the RC boat. It was at that time that the decision had to be made – the race committee had to stand its ground! There was no time for discussion on legal precedence – safety of the crew was paramount. The deed was done with the same pole that was used at the starting pin – now snake-stained. PRO for the race, **Bruce McDonald**, was quoted as saying that this was a very sad tragedy. Now it could turn into a national media event.

Racing Etiquette

The situation with the diminishing finish line deserves some discussion. The South Coast fleet always tries to take the high ground on racing etiquette. Namely, we try not to yell at anyone who is volunteering to help run any race. Volunteers are precious resources not to be squandered! To effectively enact change, always bring up issues after the race instead of yelling incoherently at the most inopportune time. If there is an unsafe situation, and trust me, it was a bit scary watching **John Kuc's** trimaran zooming into the narrow finish line, the simple answer is to avoid the danger and appeal to the race commander for those cases where a few seconds are at stake.

Intergalactics Update

Save the date. Intergalactics are scheduled for Saturday, May 19. We still have not worked out the specific starting times. We will need to recruit a race committee from one of the other fleets. Also note that the Beer Can races will have started by the time that this publication has gone through censorship review.

Happy sailing!

J/24 Update by David Broadway

The Harbor Committee installed a new ramp of WWII landing strip material just in time for the AYC Spring Series opener on March 18, allowing the addition of two J/24s to the mix, **Joe Mancuso** (Limo Box) and **David Broadway** (Superman). A rain event followed, bringing the lake up 8' and making the north ramp usable on March 25 for the first time since July 2011. This Spring Series race #2 was also the inaugural race for **John/Meiling Parker's** new addition to the fleet. Combined with the J/22 Fleet, there were seven boats at the start line for some exciting windward-leeward competition!

The J/24 Texas Circuit Regatta opened on March 31/April 1 combined with the Houston YC Elissa Regatta. There were 13 J/24 entries, the largest one-design fleet, including four Road Warriors from AYC and an entry from Bellville, Ontario, Canada! **Doc Gamble's** fine-tuned Ohh Ahh team led the way as the highest AYC finisher in a tie for 6th place. Also participating were **Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas**, ayeBoat, **John/Meiling Parker**, TBD, and **David Broadway**, Superman.

Light wind on Saturday morning resulted in a postponement ashore. However, while the wind conditions were anticipated to be somewhat light for the weekend, the wind and the chop built by race two on Saturday to cause headsail changes to the little jib. The choppy conditions proved challenging as most competitors were content with completion of just three of the four scheduled races on Saturday.

The big story of this regatta is that in their first ever J/24 TX Circuit Regatta event, **John and Meiling Parker** qualified for the 2012 J/24 World Championship to be held in Rochester, NY on September 13 - 21! Congratulations as this is a first in the annals of the J/24 USJCA! **Jorge** has the details.

Also at this stop, presentations were made for the 2011 J/24 TX Circuit Regatta season. **Bob Harden/Eric Nelson**, mr. happy, finished 1st overall, while **David Broadway**, Superman, finished 5th. **Pat Caughey** was awarded a Road Warrior bag for competing in all of the 2011 Circuit events. **Eric Nelson** was awarded Crewman of the Year! His contributions go far beyond the 2011 season, dating back to the 1980s with a huge effort in support of AYC J/24 Fleet 21, the J/24 TX Circuit Regatta, and as District 14 Governor for many years. It is only fitting that **Robbie Nelson** be recognized as Crewchick for her behind-the-scenes supporting role. Congratulations!

The second stop of the 2012 J/24 TX Circuit Regatta will be the FWBC Cowtown Stampede on April 14-15. The caravan is on the road!



Photo submitted by David Broadway



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Keel Fleet Update

by JoAnn Welles

As of this article, we've had three races held in the Spring Series. To say that the experience has been different each week would be an understatement. The first week was windy and puffy, leading to spectacular planing for some boats and spectacular broaches for others. Week 2 was light and variable with holes strewn around the course to trap the unwary, or unlucky – basically all of us. Golf would have been a better sport for week 2 than sailing, but we're sailors. Week 3 then found us with the happy medium – enough wind to get around long courses, but not enough to scare anyone. The best news is that the lake has grown from week to week.

Spinnaker A News Spinnaker A turnout has been great – 10 total competitors with six J80s, three J29s and a Viper. Week 1 was great for the J80s. Not as much fun for the J29s who 'got' to watch the 80s plane. But week 2 made up for it with the 29s getting the most out of their large genoas and long waterlines. The Viper came out of nowhere and took line honors, though, with neither a large genoa nor a long waterline. Week 3 only saw four competitors – two 80s and two 29s. At the end of the first three races, **Claude Welles** was in 1st place in his J80, Jackrabbit, while **Ray Shull** in his J29, Mostly Harmless, was in 2nd and **Tom Meyer** in Jammin' in 3rd. Three points separated 1st and 3rd so racing has been close.

Spinnaker B News Turnout continues to be low, forcing several of the 'normal' Spinnaker B competitors into non-spinnaker classes. **Kevin, Jon, and Bill**, come back home to Spinnaker B! At the end of two races, **John Maddalozzo** in his Capri 25, Orner, and **David Lewis** in his SJ 7.7, Vitamin Sea, both had a 1st. A new skipper, from England, **Bill Boas**, has purchased Que Pasa and it has been completely refinished by **Fred** to a gleaming white hull. Welcome, **Bill**.

Non-Spinnaker C News Turnout has been good, with 13 total competitors. In the first race **Bill Records** in his Pearson 26, Café Au Lait, came in 1st with **Jon Nash** in his Pearson Flyer, Namaste, in 2nd and **Jim Henrickson** in his 11 Meter, Warrior, in 3rd. In week 2, Warrior came in 1st, **Trey AmRhein** in his Catalina 27, Hakuna Matata, came in 2nd and **Steve Ehlers** in his Catalina 30, Endorfin, came in 3rd. In series race 3, Café Au Lait came in 1st, with Warrior 2nd and Namaste 3rd.

Be sure to read non-spinnaker fleet captain **Jim Johnstone's** article entitled "Getting Off to a Good Start." With so many boats on the line, non-spinnaker starts have been contested, both on the course and in the protest room.

Non-Spinnaker D News The non-spinnaker boats with higher ratings have continued to stay away from the races. Only five have registered, and only **Bill Benker** in his MacGregor 26 finished in the last race. We haven't found the right breakdown yet.

Two Great Events for the Price of One!

Sail Training has asked me to remind the keel fleet about the Racing Start Clinic Saturday April 14 from 1-5 p.m. Seems race committees think that our starts in keel fleet are, shall we say, interesting?

Seriously, **Scott Young** is an excellent instructor with great

credentials. Even if you typically get the best start in your fleet, you need to come out to find out what your competitors might be learning! You may find that your sweet spot on the line is more crowded than before and even you need new strategies. Keel fleet is the only fleet where size and potential speed vary so much among competitors. The on-the-water instruction for the clinic will have a variety of boats making it especially appropriate for keel fleet skippers.

Either plan to use your boat, or be crew on another (so not having a boat in the water isn't a good excuse!). There will be a chalk talk, on-the-water instruction and follow-up discussion with refreshments. If you haven't been able to sail due to low water, here's a chance to enjoy the lake and get racing back in your blood. Sign up at <http://www.austinyachtclub.net/training/startingandtactics>

Yes, there is a fee, but isn't it worth it to you to get that great start?

In other news, Beer Can races start April 6.

Getting Off to a Good Start

by Jim Johnstone

During the third start last weekend, I came up to leeward of a Catalina 30 just as the horn went off for our start and we crossed the line with me a little bit behind him but pointing higher. I urged the skipper of the Catalina to head up to avoid touching and he first said that there was a boat to windward of him that blocked this, and I quickly explained RRS rule 11 to him and urged him up, assuring him that the boat to his windward would give him room. "I am just trying to stay out of everybody's way!" he lamented.

As I was thinking about this, I realized that the best time to get in some other boat's way (legally) would be at the start where there is much to be gained and the rules are pretty clear about who has right of way. If we did not already have starts for practicing getting in each other's way, we would have to invent them just so we could learn the right of way rules.

When I was learning how to race, I could never get close enough to another boat after the start to pose a threat of jeopardizing their right of way. But at the start I could, and it was there that I learned about port and starboard tack, and leeward boat, and overlap and barging and the finer points of each of those.

Scott Young has a clinic coming up and I urge all of you to attend if you can to get on the water experience with the rules of Part II of the RRS with someone coaching you through and watching out to make sure you do not wreck into another boat (see RRS 14 – Avoiding Contact). Rule 14 does not actually require **Scott Young** to be on your boat when you race but it does give some strong guidance on avoiding collisions, like thou shalt if it is at all possible. This was actually chiseled into one of the tablets that God gave Moses but was lost when the tablets were broken.

Some sailors contend that the perfect upwind start is to be on starboard tack at the starboard end of the line such that no boat can squeeze between you and the starboard end of the line. I say this is for weenies with no imagination. A more daring sailor will go for a port tack start at the port end of the line showing its lee bow to the fleet.

continued next page

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Always a sensation whether it works or not, and guaranteed to cause a commotion whenever it is attempted.

Another daring technique is the dip start from the course side of the line, especially when initiated from port tack. It is so named because of comments raised about the skipper who tries it on a crowded line. When the committee senses a dip will try to start this way, they often raise a flag to thwart the practice because they do not want to be picking people out of the water and hearing multiple protests when things do not work out as planned.

My idea of the perfect start is for all competing boats to arrive at the line simultaneously on starboard tack with me a little behind at the port end of the line having leeward overlap on everyone. A few seconds before the start signal, I head up, causing every other boat to head up and be over the line early, leaving me to start on time by myself, (just keeping out of everyone else's way!) as they turn back to get across the start line. I call this the SOB start because when asked who pushed them over early, every boat but the one next to me says "Some Other Boat." The boat next to me says: "No, that SOB did it."

From the Desk of the GM

by Steve Hawks

As of this article, we've had three races held in the Spring Series. Many of you who came to the club in March noticed the new FJ fleet sitting in the grass near the cabins. Those boats are now fully rigged and being used by the UT sailing team and our sail training programs.



Photos submitted by Steve Hawks

The old FJ fleet was sold to the Galveston Sea Scouts. They are now sitting on new EZ docks in Galveston Bay. I am sure the Scouts will put them to good use.



New home of the old FJ fleet

It is always nice when a plan comes together where everyone involved gets what they want and considers the overall business a success.

Now back to the new FJ Fleet. These boats will be used during the College Nationals that are being hosted by the Austin Yacht Club. The event will be held during late May and early June. This event will draw collegiate sailors from all over the United States and will showcase some of the finest sailing talent in the country. ESPN has plans to cover the event and air it on national TV.

Social Committee Update

by Susie McDonald

Please welcome new social committee member, **Marilyn Hammond**. Marilyn has volunteered her time and talents many times in the past but she is now "official." We're very happy to have her on the team.

The Opening Day Brunch and Ceremony was a huge success. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen. **Deborah Mathison** took some great photos of the event. You'll find them on the next two pages of this issue of Telltale, along with a special thanks from our Commodore, **Johannes Brinkmann**.

The social committee has been working hard during the Spring Series. The response to the menus has been very positive and we will keep trying to come up with new ideas for series meals. I would like to thank the members of the social committee who have done so much to make the series meals and other events a success. We love what we do, it is a lot of work and we put our hearts into it.

We are planning a Chili Cook-Off for the Spring End-of-Series race. The deadline for entering the cook-off is April 16. There is a sign-up board in the clubhouse or you can send me an email at ghowiellc@aol.com to get your name on the list. We need a minimum of six chili contestants to make the contest work. If we do not get enough participation, we will come up with a different menu for the last race. It will be good but not as fun as the Chili Cook-Off, so if you are interested in participating, now's the time to sign up.

CHILI COOK-OFF SIGN-UP DEADLINE

APRIL 16

Sign-up board is located in the clubhouse or send me an email at ghowiellc@aol.com if you would like to participate.

OPENING DAY MARCH 11, 2011

THANK YOU! This year's Opening Day Brunch and Ceremony was a huge success thanks to the help and participation of many people. I'd like to thank the following individuals:

Tom Romberg for delivering such an eloquent and meaningful invocation.

Scout Troop #2012 members **Dante Gryder, Alex Mormon, Dayton Spradling, Justin Spradling and Jole Smith** for posting the colors.

Annabelle Gilliam, Claire Stewart and Robin Brinkmann for their beautiful singing of our National Anthem.

Sam Peel for his flawless ringing of the bell in honor of deceased members.

Jim Tillinghast for his moving dedication of the Hap McCollum Memorial Bench.

Will Atkinson, Phoebe Atkinson and Ben Peel for adding pageantry and color with their hoisting of the **Clift Price** Burgee Collection.

Steve Gay for his presentation of the Richmond Yacht Club Burgee.

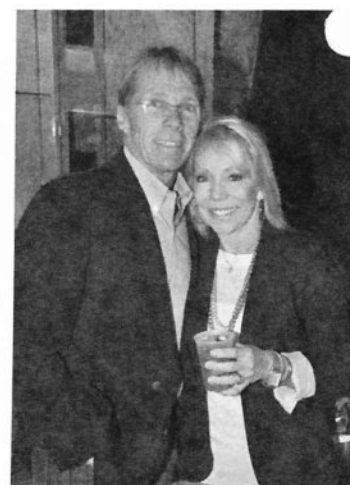
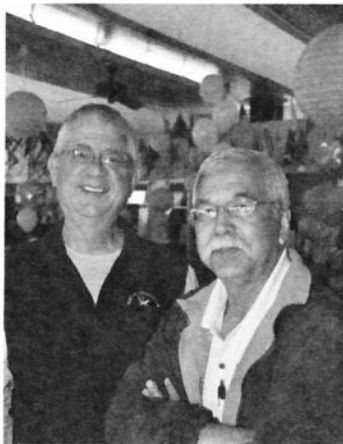
John and Claudia Bartlett for the fortifying libations.

Susie McDonald and the entire social committee for organizing the delicious brunch.

Our club staff **Steve Hawks, Tom Cunningham and Pam Radebaugh** for their work behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly.

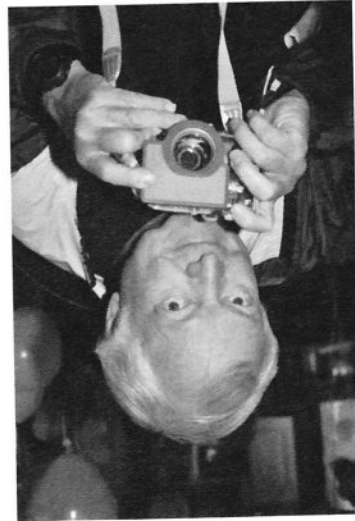
And finally, all the **Founders and Past Commodores** who graced us with their presence and their good wishes.

Johannes Brinkmann



Photos by Deborah Mathison





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