



RED EYE REGATTA

To heck with the low water – we're having fun!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Red Eye Regatta

New Year's Eve
Photos

Boating Safety
by Pat Caughy

- PLUS -

Commodore's Report
Fleet Captain Reports
Committee Reports



Save the Dates

Frostbite Series
January 21, 28,
February 4, 11, 18
(Chili Cook-off)

Super Bowl Potluck
February 5

McDonald / Uphaus Team
Wins Hap McCollum Trophy



Cover photo by Jim Casto

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore	Johannes Brinkmann
Im. Past Commodore	Jim Tillinghast
Vice Commodore	Christopher Dwight
Secretary	Randolph Bertin
Treasurer	Don Dwight
Race Commander	Barry Bowden
Buildings & Grounds Cdr.	John Saunders
Harbor Commander	Jon Nash
Sail Training Cdr.	Jenny Loehlin

AYC STAFF

General Manager	Steve Hawks
Bookkeeper	Pam Radebaugh
Head Caretaker	Tom Cunningham

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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

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sail_training@austinyachtclub.net
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AYC 2012 RACE CALENDAR

January 21	Frostbite Series Race #1 (RC PHRF A)
January 28	Frostbite Series Race #2 (RC PHRF B)
February 4	Frostbite Series Race #3 (RC Non Spin)
February 11	Frostbite Series Race #4 (RC Multi Hull)
February 18	Frostbite Series Race #5 (RC J/24)

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

AYC 2012 NON-RACING EVENTS

Stay posted!

From the Desk of the GM

2012 will be a year of great potential, as motivated by a tremendous 2011. For example, in 2011 the yacht club facilities received major improvements overseen by the caring vigilance of the Buildings and Grounds Committee chaired by Commander **Fred Ford**. Fred's sense of purpose and determination kept projects moving to completion and produced one of the biggest major maintenance efforts the club has had in recent history.

Sail Training had a banner year as well and led the club in the areas of new member recruitment and educational programs. This effort was motivated and guided by Commander **Bill Records**.

Speaking of motivation, the Membership Committee chaired by Past Commodore **Steve Eller** produced a new membership brochure, conducted one of the most successful open houses on record and cleaned up the membership database while conducting membership business in a timely manner.

The receding water levels caused our 2011 Harbor Commander, **Tom Groll**, to recruit the help of the membership more times than usual in recent years. This volunteer spirit coupled with Tom's tenacity and dedication resulted in a continual and productive effort which allowed the membership to continue to have access to the docks and sail their boats.

Under the direction of Race Commander **Bruce McDonald**, despite challenging conditions, series races and educational efforts were organized and conducted in a professional and enjoyable manner.

Yolanda Cortes Mares served as the Board Secretary and through her efforts, agendas and minutes were produced in a timely manner and a tremendous amount of work was accomplished on the directory.

Speaking of effort, **Donald Dwight**, the 2011 Treasurer, orchestrated the loan that funded the new dock purchases, ensured that the club stayed financially secure and with the help of his committee played an instrumental part in numerous club projects.

Johannes Brinkmann, Vice Commodore displayed his political and financial savvy by spearheading the effort to save the club thousands of dollars in tax savings each year in addition to ensuring that the club's regatta schedule was full and successful. He even fit in a comprehensive review of our insurance policy resulting in more thorough coverage and premium savings.

Chairing this talented Board of Directors was **Jim Tillinghast**, Commodore. Over the past year Jim resolved conflict, encouraged board action and demanded financial common sense. With this simple recipe Jim led this dynamic board to a high level of accomplishment.

As the General Manager I saw setbacks to these efforts and would certainly acknowledge that things did not always go smoothly. Despite that, I would like to say thank you to the 2011 Board for their efforts in 2011 as it certainly a "Job Well Done"!

From The Commodore

by Johannes Brinkmann



I'll bet most everyone who sailed Red Eye Regatta will agree that there's no better way to start the new year than on the water on a beautiful sunny and breezy afternoon. It was a perfect winter day for sailing. We had a very good turnout, and the event was the first case in point that it's going to be a great year at AYC despite the low water conditions.

Normally I would have sailed my C-22 in Red Eye, but like many other members, I dry sail and cannot easily launch my boat now. I had a lot of fun crewing on someone else's wet slipped boat, and this brings me straight to what I believe is one of our highest priorities at the outset of this year: restoring ramp launch access as soon as possible.

Your incoming Harbor Commander, **Jon Nash**, is gathering information and putting together proposals to make ramp access possible at current lake levels. Concepts include modifying and extending the existing north ramp and/or adding a new concrete ramp on the point. The board will be evaluating initial concepts as part of our second budget planning session on January 8, and my hope is that we will have enough information by our January 26 board meeting to vote on an actionable plan.

Although January is not the most active sailing month for most of us, it is a busy month for AYC's board and staff. Your incoming commanders have taken the hand-off from last year's board. They are forming their committees, setting priorities for the coming year, establishing work routines with the staff and honing their operating and capital budgets.

A very important component of the budget deliberations this month will be to determine acceptable levels of financial reserves. This is particularly true as the low water squeezes our revenues while increasing our operating costs and creating opportunities for us to make significant harbor access improvements. For the past two years **Don Dwight**, Treasurer, has done a great job guiding us financially and we are fortunate to have his expertise on our board again this year. We will make sure that our cash reserves are adequate to maintain a strong financial footing, and we may decide to take on additional long term debt to finance a portion of our needed capital improvements. The budget will be discussed at length at our January 26 board meeting, and I encourage you to attend.

Jenny Loehlin, Sail Training Commander, and Junior Coach **Kate Noble**, will be coordinating junior practices in the coming weeks as our young sailors prepare for the upcoming Roadrunner Regatta March 3-4. Each year this is one of the best attended regattas at AYC. Hundreds of kids from all over the state come to compete. This year's Roadrunner Regatta will be a showcase of AYC's ability to put on a first class event during low water. Our juniors will be excellent hosts, and they will be sailing to win!

Barry Bowden, Race Commander, and Vice Commodore **Christopher Dwight** have been completing the 2012 racing

calendar while **Susie McDonald**, Social Chair, has put together a full social schedule. Both calendars are being finalized and will be published in the coming days. The Frostbite series will start January 21. While sailboat racing bands us together as a club, there are many additional reasons to gather with friends and family at AYC. Our social calendar kicks off with the Superbowl Potluck on February 5, so come to the party and root for your team!

Vice Commodore Report

by Christopher Dwight



Welcome to 2012: I am happy to return to the AYC board, this year serving as Vice Commodore. For those of you new to the club, I have served previously as Harbor Commander during 2008, 2009, and 2010. For 2012, I am joined by a strong team of both AYC board veterans and new board members who will bring fresh ideas for AYC.

As an introduction, I would like to restate my vision and priorities as Vice Commodore for 2012.

I believe that as a club and as a sport, we face significant competition. Our competitors are not other yacht clubs or marinas – our competitors are time and money. Our members have a lot of choices in where they invest both. As a club, we have to provide a solid value to our membership. To me, this means delivering engaging activities and providing high-quality facilities that will attract and retain members and provide great experiences, both ashore and on the water.

General Priorities for AYC

- Protect and extend our financial strength and fiscal responsibility
- Operational excellence – ensure that the club functions efficiently with transparency and accountability, delivering high-quality facilities and services to our membership
- Proactively manage external factors (macro-economic condition, ongoing drought, legal exposure, regulatory changes)
- Plan for these conditions in our budget cycle
- Develop contingency plans before they are necessary
- Encourage creative approaches (examples: current dock configuration, Governor's Cup 2011)
- Focus on building membership by both maintaining current members and attracting new members
- Creative approaches to increasing participation rates and percentage of active members
- Social activities
- Creative regattas / sailing events

2012 Regatta Priorities

- Leverage existing regatta know-how and past leaders
- Creative approaches to participation – leverage boats in the water at AYC and/or elsewhere (example: Governors Cup 2011)
- Contingency planning for low water, landlocked boats, sudden flood, and emergency work parties / dock moves
- Best / target / worst case approach to regatta budgets, participation levels, last-minute changes

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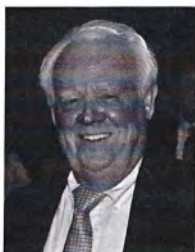
Membership input is critical to my ability to serve both the membership and the guiding principles of the club. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your ideas, priorities, or suggestions. You can reach me in person at the club, via email (vice_commodore@austinyachtclub.net), or on my mobile phone: 512-239-8500.

Lastly, our club is fundamentally a community that thrives on member participation. I strongly urge each of you to get out and enjoy both our club and our lake. Our facilities are in the best condition they have been in for years. Several boats are still in the water and active. Although our access is impeded, the lake has never been nicer with such limited boat traffic. The Frostbite Series is rapidly approaching ... if you have a boat in the water, there has never been a time with more willing and available crew ... if you are landlocked, there are still plenty of boats participating. Even if you don't plan to race, I urge you to come down to the clubhouse and socialize after the races. Our club community benefits from active membership participation both on the water and ashore.

See you on the water or on the grounds during 2012.

Race Commander Report

by Barry Bowden



The 2012 Racing year got off to a great start on January 1 with the Red Eye Regatta. The turnout was matched with the beautiful weather. The courses sailed are a preview of new courses to be in effect for the Frostbite Series. The lack of water around marks I and K will necessitate the use of the LCRA channel markers in those areas. These are marks

number 4 near I and 5 near K mark. These marks are all in deep water and will provide room for safe roundings.

Please register for the Frostbite Series online so we will have a preview for planning purposes. There are plenty of boats in the water for racing. If yours is not one of them, then encourage a friend to either come and race with you crewing or maybe loan their boat to another member. The weather has been great and there are no excuses for not coming out and joining us.

The Race Committee is planning on offering Racing Rules and Race Management courses again this year. We also plan to have Powerboat Safety Courses available. I intend to get all new members involved in these activities and encourage them to participate on a race committee soon after they join the club. Our longer term members are also encouraged to join in these useful seminars and activities. More details will be available soon.

We have positions open on the Permanent Race Committee. Please contact me at b.bowdendds@gmail.com if you have an interest in serving the club. I will be glad to talk to you about the duties of this committee.

Lets have another great year of racing at AYC and get the New Year off to a good start by coming out for the Frostbite Series.

Building & Grounds Report

by John Saunders



Thanks to **Tom Groll** and his trusty tractor work, the boat storage area has been cleaned up and is more organized AND the dock area on the point has been improved to assure that, when you want to get to your dock, you can walk instead of wading or paddling. Tom has spent many hours and days of his time on the bobcat working to get these and several other

projects done, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for his efforts. When you walk to your boat vs paddling or wading, take time to thank Tom Groll.

Thank you Tom many times over.

Fred Ford, Steve Brown, Tom Cunningham, and I moved empty identified trailers back into the trailer parking area on January 5. Several unidentified trailers are parked elsewhere on the property. We need some identification on these trailers, folks. All trailers on the property must have readable owners name and "AYC" on the trailer tongue.

The board is planning for 2012. Major problems are caused by the continuing lower lake levels and planning for access to the docks.

Building and Grounds continues to attempt to:

- Maintain existing facilities and infrastructure,
- Bring those into standards of use and compliance, and
- Attempt to make AYC both useful and inviting.

While moving trailers, we encountered many derelict /abandoned or just junk trailers. These are a problem we are working to solve, as mentioned above.

Derelict stuff brings to mind the dry sail area and in general any member equipment on the property. The lake is down, that occupies our thoughts; however the lake will rise, and it will again flood. If I could tell you when, I would have a bigger boat, but it will happen. In these events volunteers make an effort to move equipment to locations above flood levels. This never happens on a dry sunny day. During those times, equipment that is secured, broken, or just has a flat tire, may be left in place. We have neither the ability, means, or time to repair equipment.

Take an inventory of your stuff. Do you have a small boat not on a trailer? Do you have a trailer under repair, broken, or unidentified? Have you checked tire pressure in the last six months? Does the tongue jack work? Does it take more than dropping your trailer coupler onto a hitch ball? Attempting to move this type of equipment is dangerous as well as time consuming and may be impossible. Your equipment may be left in place.

This time of the year is a great time to maintain and repair your equipment so it works for you and for the club.

We hope to see each of you at the club enjoying our wonderful facility. Given all that we have been through this past year, the Red Eye Regatta had about 40 boats sailing.

Happy New Year!

Harbor Commander Report

by Jon Nash

In 2011, Lake Travis dropped 41' from 667' to 626' where it sits today. Between January 1 and May 1, the drop was about 10'. Last year was the only year in the last five to see a drop of more than 1' during that time period. By May 1, 2012, the LCRA is forecasting the lake level to drop below 620' if the drought continues. Only above average rainfall will bring the lake back above 630'.

One great bit of news is that the LCRA was successful in getting the emergency drought relief they sought and can shut off the rice farmers in 2012. With that we can expect municipal consumption and evaporation to drive lake levels in 2012. Unfortunately, no one seems to really know what that means and the chart below may be optimistic.

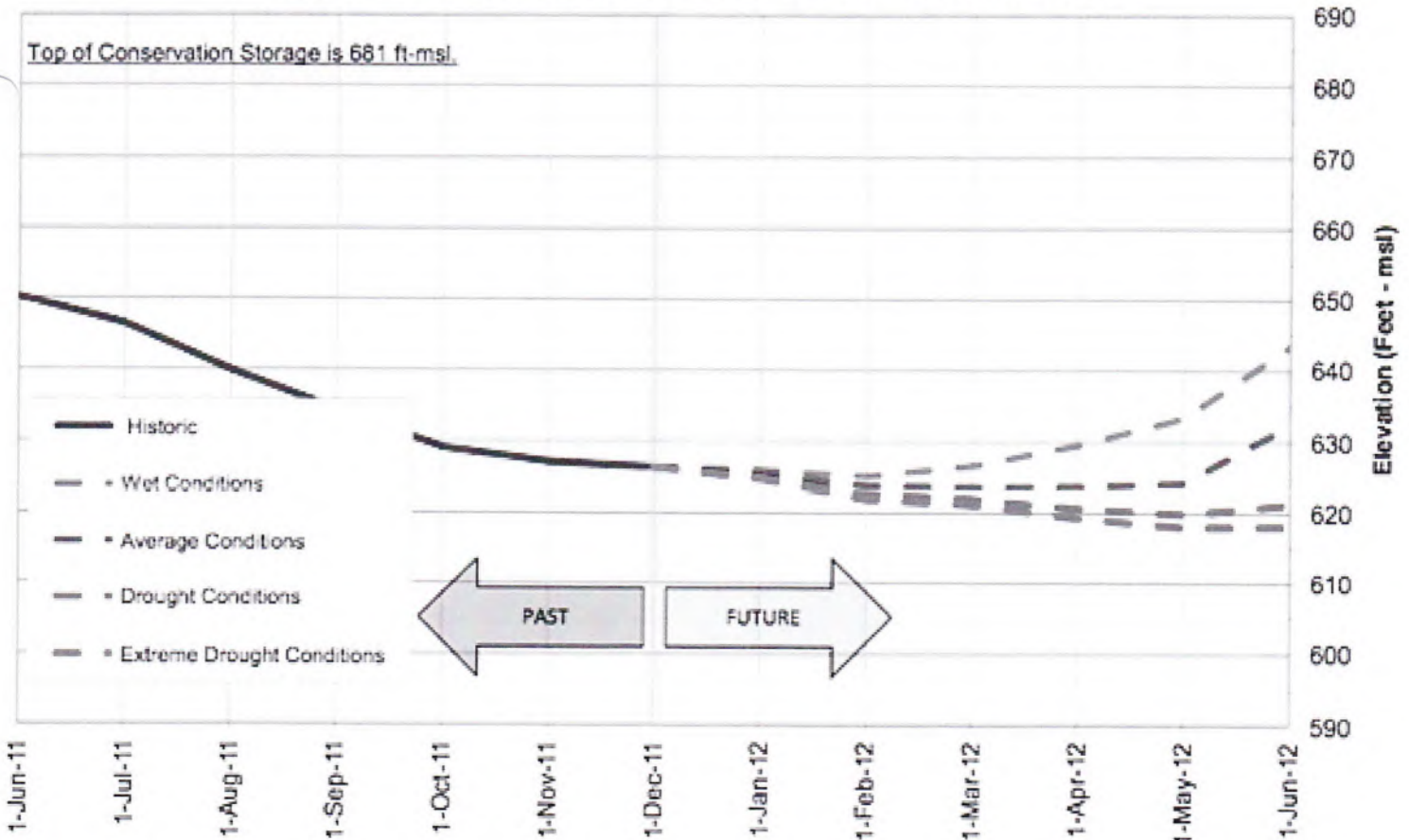
Two things stand out as major priorities as a result. We need to have a solid plan for keeping the docks in deep water and keep everyone in wet slips sailing. We also need to find a way to get those boats in dry storage into the water.

The first of those priorities may be the easier of the two. **Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas, Vic Manning** and I borrowed **John Bartlett's** boat and surveyed the harbor last month. It looks like there is room to reconfigure the docks and keep all the boats in deep water all the way down to 595'. That means we can handle another 30' drop in lake level. Be prepared for a long walk to your slip, but I hope that is the biggest inconvenience.

The second problem is also being worked diligently and a number of great ideas are on the table. We are looking at everything from new ramps to cranes, but the best might be if Mother Nature would give the lake level a lift and put our existing ramps back into action. Until then, we'll be working on an alternative.

With that, I'll say thanks to **Tom Groll** on behalf of the entire club. Without Tom's superhuman efforts over the last year we would all be high and dry. The same thanks apply to **Tom Cunningham**, and I'm looking forward to working with Tom Cunningham and all of you to keep us on the water in 2012.

Lake Travis Level Forecast WITH EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF IN 2012



Sail Training Report

by Jenny Loehlin



Happy new year, everyone! First of all, I'd like to thank **Bill Records** for all his work as Sail Training Commander over the past two years. It's a bit scary going on the board with the water levels where they are, but I'm glad to be inheriting a strong program. I'm very pleased that **Kate Noble** will be back with us again this year as junior coach.

Many of you know me already—I've been crewing here since 2001 on boats of all sizes and shapes. My own boats are Fearless, a Harpoon 5.2, and Fishy, a Sunfish. I took a learn-to-sail class at AYC in the summer of 2000 – **Pat Manning** and **Ravi Subramanian** were among the instructors. Having learned to sail as an adult, I'm definitely envious of the PB&Jers. I've participated as student and/or instructor in as many of the adult classes out here over the years

as I could, including one time being the only centerboard boat in **Scott Young's** starting clinic. I took **Steve Gay's** US Sailing class for Small Boat Instructor Level 1 certification (which we're hoping to offer again this spring, and I recommend it highly for people interested in teaching sailing).

My goals for the sail training program are to provide new sailors of all sizes with a non-intimidating introduction to the sport, to increase participation in racing and the level of competition by providing intermediate and advanced instruction for skippers and crews (I think I just heard some snickers from the Sunfish fleet—no, I'm not planning to teach those classes myself), to provide junior sailors with opportunities to improve their racing skills and have fun on the water, and to introduce potential new members to the club.

Please let me know if you and/or your boat are interested in helping out with the sail training program or if there are particular classes you'd like to see offered. I'm looking forward to another great year.

Watch the Telltale, the website, and of course the restrooms for news of upcoming activities.

J/24 Fleet Update

by David Broadway

The final 2011 J/24 TX Circuit Regatta stop was held Nov. 19-20 at the Lake Canyon YC. The racing and the camaraderie were outstanding! While the mr. happy team had already locked up the 2011 Circuit, the team was on a mission to win the event for recuperating teammate **Eric Nelson**. They were not to be denied as they won the event by a 16 point margin with only four crew. Congratulations to the entire team of **Bob Harden, Eric Nelson, Tom Lappin, Mike Lefebvre, and Jay Sacco** for another stellar Circuit season!

Dr. Gamble's Ohh Ahh team moved up to 7th place while **Jorge Martin de Nicolas's** ayeBoat team finished 10th overall on the 2011 Circuit.

The Superman team of **David Broadway, Kurt Carson, Dave Hull, Rosanne Butera, and Pat Caughey** earned a 3rd place regatta finish, their best of the season, to move into 5th place overall for the 2011 Circuit season.

At the AYC annual banquet, a fleet member was nominated for the Blue Duck award. After a recounting of a certain RC duty incident in which a chase boat and in-tow SC21 were both sunk, the applause meter convincingly determined our own **Pat Caughey** as the Blue Duck award winner. See Pat's article in this issue regarding safety on the water.

At the fleet Christmas party, the perpetual fleet championship trophy was unanimously awarded to the boys on the red boat, **Ryan Harden, Pat Reynolds, Chris Reynolds, Curtis Tarpley, and Phil Spletter** for their convincing win at the most competitive Circuit event of the season, the Texas State Championship/Kenyon Cup hosted at AYC. Congratulations on this huge Circuit win!

The fleet is growing! **John and Meiling Parker** are now the proud owners of a J/24. Look for them practicing during the upcoming Frostbite Series in preparation for a 2012 J/24 TX Circuit campaign!



Congratulations, Pat!

Boating Safety

by Pat Caughy

I am the proud recipient of the 2011 Blue Duck Award, what I believe to be the most prestigious award given by AYC each year. If you do not agree with me, just take a look at all of those who have their names engraved on the trophy. Who knew that all I had to do to be a part of that crowd was be the first to sink a chase boat. (That may or may not be completely true, but I am the first in at least a few decades.)

I have definitely learned a lot from that experience – for one, I will always know exactly where a knife is, most likely in my pocket, when I am aboard any boat. But more than that, it taught me that the unexpected can happen in a very short amount of time. This was reaffirmed to me by another incident later this past summer when I was aboard a Tri after a Beer Can Race, just cruising on a windy evening sail when someone fell overboard. Even though we had over 100 years of experience on that boat, it took us almost 20 minutes to find and retrieve him on that moonless night. Fortunately, he was not injured, much, and is a good swimmer as we had not thrown him any kind of floatation device. We, and especially him, were very lucky that night.

The moral of the story is: If we are going to consider ourselves good sailors, we should play the part. Whenever we step aboard any boat, we should go through our own checklist, including but not limited to:

1. Where is the throwable PFD?
Where are the wearable PFDs; are there enough for everybody?
3. Knife?
4. If the boat is equipped with GPS, where is the MOB button?
5. Where is the search light?
6. Who will continue to spot the MOB?

When we go through this checklist, we should not do it subtly. Instead, do it in a way that ensures everyone onboard is aware of the MOB procedure, because it might be you who steps off the back of the boat. We all should regularly be doing man overboard drills, whether it be just throwing a life jacket overboard, or do it like I do, grab a life jacket and a beer and jump. Any person who regularly sails, whether crew or skipper, should be able to take the helm and maneuver the boat to the MOB. All others on the boat should also know what needs to happen to insure that the MOB is quickly and safely retrieved from the water. The only way to learn this, is with practice. Practice safety!

Ensign Fleet Update

by Danny Lien

South Coasts Battle Ensign Fleet at Red Eye

As usual, the weather was forecast as brisk and windy on January 1, 2012. Many of the Carl Alberg-One Design sailors at the club (being from both the South Coast and Ensign Fleets), chose to sail on J-29s. I am happy and proud to report that the J-29 with five Ensign sailors as crew beat both of the J-29s with South Coast sailors onboard their boats. It is a good start to the New Year for our fleet. Also **Tom Groll** (single-handed) and **Elliot Bray**, did sail on Ensigns braving the wind and waves. Tom rounded "just about every mark that he saw just in case those marks were part of the course", and he did have fun and said afterwards that he came as close to planing downwind under spinnaker, as he ever has on an Ensign.

The Ensign Fleet had their annual potluck dinner and meeting the first week in January. For those of you who didn't attend, you can rest assured that unless you are **Lewis Price**, you are not Fleet Captain this year. Lewis, by non-attendance, earned the right and respect of the fleet and therefore was voted in as Fleet Captain. We all know he will serve us well. **Clift Price** was heard to say "I protest" during the meeting. "For what", replied our current Captain **Randolph Bertin**. "I protest if Lewis is not elected as Captain" said Clift. With that exchange, nominations ceased and Lewis was elected by all in attendance. **Norma Lien** will be Treasurer again and **James Wilsford** is Secretary and will coordinate Telltale submissions throughout the year as "Master of Fleet Poets". Sign up now for your month to write a Telltale Article as there are a few slots left.

Fleet 30 is taking HYC up on their offer to host Regionals in Houston this summer as we still are unsure of the expected lake levels and the attendant logistics of launching out of town and the AYC boats currently on the hard. In their offer **Kay Snider** stated that Galveston Bay still has water but many of the trees around the HYC area did not make it through the drought. Kinda scary.

Per recent email, HYC is also offering chartered boats for their mid-winters in February if one requests by January 15. Sounds enticing!

Frostbite starts January 21st. Ensigns still have enough boats in the water. Let's double up and again have a good series showing.

See you on-the-water within the canyon walls.

FROSTBITE SCHEDULE

January 21	Frostbite Series Race #1 (RC PHRF A)	DIY (Do it yourself) Fleet Socials
January 28	Frostbite Series Race #2 (RC PHRF B)	Dinner in the Clubhouse
February 4	Frostbite Series Race #3 (RC Non Spin)	Dinner in the Clubhouse
February 11	Frostbite Series Race #4 (RC Multi Hull)	Dinner in the Clubhouse
February 18	Frostbite Series Race #5 (RC J/24)	Awards and Chili Cook-Off

Catalina 22 Fleet Update

by Art Bussey

Ahhh! Yet another extraordinary year in the books for the AYC Catalina 22 Fleet. Extra ordinary in many ways, not the least of which was the scarcity of the key element in sailing – water. Lake Travis is at a 40 plus year low level. All public access to the Lake has long been closed, as are all AYC ramps. All the more reasons to love your friends with boats in the water.

But not to worry. When given lemons, make a cocktail. Which is exactly what we did at this year's Xmas Party held Dec. 10! A blowout with the highest attendance in memory. Many activities to draw in the crowds. Beautiful decorations. Marvelous potluck dinner prepared by our members. A generous open bar slept to the Club by Captain **Roy Crouse**. Professional Blackjack tables made available by **Jon Fitch** and delivered to the event by **The Griz** with expert dealers **Travis and Michael Bussey**. And this year's Blackjack winner was again young **Sam Peel**, who beat out **Johannes Brinkman** with a furious betting frenzy at the end. The Prize was a \$50 gift certificate to the beautiful Kobe Japanese Restaurant. And thanks to Santa's ever-beautiful helpers **Restu Sunarto Bussey and Megan Kells-Murphy**.

This year's Most Improved Skipper in the C – 22 Fleet went to **Brett Wilson**. He continues to restore "BeBop" to near racing perfection. This year he with his trusty crew Cindy Higgins, participated in the most events and placed strongly in most. Congratulations to Brett and Cindy!

And the crowning achievement had to be the rockin' performance by our own fleet band, The Shoal Brothers; consisting of **Dane Ohe** on lead, **Mike Jakle** on bass, **Wade Bingaman** rhythm and vocals and **Joe Roddy** on drums. Great work on the part of all band members with a special cudos to Wade for ramroding the band. The music was just right for all the dancing fools among our crowd, above all dancing Santa!



2012 Super Bowl Potluck

February 5

5:00 pm
In the clubhouse

It's free!

Bring your favorite Super Bowl dish
and BYOB

Be ready to put your money where your mouth is.
Details to come.



Photos submitted by
Art Bussey

Keel Fleet Update

by JoAnn Welles

Annual Banquet

Three Annual Banquet awards were given to keel fleet members.

Robert and Jen Schwan won the Jimmy B. Card Memorial Trophy, given to the best new sailor – sailors in this case. **Linda Donovan** won the Corinthian Woman Sailor Trophy, given to the woman who has made a great contribution to the enhancement of the sport of racing. And **Vic Manning** got the Old Salt of the Austin Yacht Club award for the club senior sailor exhibiting enthusiasm, sportsmanship and competitiveness over a period of time.

Congratulations to these keel fleeters – we are fortunate for their presence in our fleet!

Red Eye Regatta

January 1 can be cold, wet, and miserable. Every year the keel fleet sponsors the Red Eye Regatta to ring in the New Year and shake off the hangovers. Prior years have seen sleet, fog, and even in one year, steam rising from the lake, making race conditions difficult. This year, however, conditions were nearly perfect, with 50-60 degree temperatures and winds near or above 15 knots. 35 boats entered the regatta, including four multi-hulls. Turn out for non-spinnaker and spinnaker were about equal, and both fleets were split in half for purposes of trophies. (See photos next three pages.)

The Red Eye Regatta has started a new trend, sailed using LCRA channel markers exclusively. The AYC marks were not suitable as two of them (I and X) were too close to shore, and B was missing. Fortunately channel markers (by definition) are in deep water, and 4 is reasonably close to I, with 7 close to B. Racing on Lake Travis is now more challenging (or perhaps 'flakier'?) than normal with wind channeling around the higher than usual cliffs and newly exposed land requiring detours. However, racing at AYC is still better than at most yacht clubs, particularly on New Year's Day.

Bruce McDonald won the McCollum award, given to the spinnaker racer who wins on corrected time. As the slowest boat in the fleet, Bruce overcame all the faster boats to win in his South Coast 21. Although the South Coast fleet might claim Bruce as one of their members, he also is a Keel Fleet member who has raced in most of the Keel Fleet events and has always volunteered to help the fleet with KHF activities. Congratulations, Bruce. Bruce, of course, also won in his fleet, spinnaker B. **Matt Romberg** won spinnaker A in his J29, Imagine. Matt was the only A fleet spinnaker boat sporting a symmetrical spinnaker – how times have changed for A fleet!

Other trophies in the spinnaker fleet went to:

Larry Ratliff in his J80, Restless, for 2nd place and **Ray Shull** in Mostly Harmless, his J29 for 3rd place in A fleet.

- **Linda McDavitt** in Coasting Around, her South Coast 21 for 2nd in B fleet.

In non-spinnaker, **Claudia and John Bartlett** won A fleet in their new Beneteau 34. This boat was primarily purchased to be chartered as part of the Texas Sailing fleet, but it was pointed out to Claudia by **Tasha Barlow** that the Beneteau was a better choice

for the Red Eye than their J80. Turns out you can't go below in a J80 and make hot chocolate! And you're unlikely to get wet on the Beneteau. Congratulations, John and Claudia. **Elliott Bray** in Chapparel, his Ensign, won B fleet in non-spinnaker.

Other trophies in the non-spinnaker fleet went to:

- In A fleet, **Nathan Dwight** in his J22 took 2nd place, and **Jim Henrickson** in his 11 Meter, Warrior, took 3rd. Nathan's home for the holidays from Hope College in Holland, MI, and enjoyed his time in the warmth sailing double-handed with his dad.
- In B fleet, **Bill Records** in his Pearson 26, Café Au Lait took 2nd place and **Vic Manning** in his Pearson 26, Talisman, took 3rd.

David and Molly Lewis did an excellent job of planning and executing the Red Eye regatta. They were supported by **Claude and JoAnn Welles**, **Jim Tillinghast**, **Larry Ratliff** and a full race committee including **Jim Casto**, **Barry Thornton and son**, **Steve Vaughn**, **Bill Boa**, **Renee Ruais**, and **Sean Gingras**. Thanks to Claude's omelet cooking expertise and willingness to spend New Year's morning cooking omelets for hungry sailors prior to the race, we went back to the tradition of cooking omelets for breakfast, which was well received by all. The omelets were accompanied by sausage, fruit, coffee cake, and, of course Bloody Mary's. When David and Molly are responsible for a regatta, you can count on great food.

Red Eye was a wonderful opportunity to sail against members of one design fleets that we usually don't get to race against. Keel Fleet was magnanimous and allowed several of them to win trophies. Who says that the fastest boats always win in handicap racing?

WANTED : Students for Sailing Instructor Course

In order to meet the needs of our growing Junior Program, we need more certified sailing instructors. Steve Gay will be offering US Sailing Level 1 small boat instructor course sometime this Spring. I took the course last spring and can honestly say that it was remarkable in formative and very rewarding. It includes a section on power boat handling and safety which is essential for anyone serving on race committee. For more information contact Jennifer Loehlin (jloehlin@hotmail.com), Steve Gay (segay1@myfairpoint.net), or me (brecordsfotos@yahoo.com).

Sail fast!

Bill Records

2012 Red Eye Regatta



Photos by Jim Casto



More photos next page

More Red Eye!



New Year's Eve at the Clubhouse Happy New Year!



More photos next page

More New Year's Eve

Photos submitted by Sun Hi Casey and Ray Shull



Socially Speaking by Susie McDonald

Happy New Year from all of us on the social committee. We are in the process of making plans for 2012 and we can't wait for the year to begin!

Frostbite Series

The Frostbite Series will kick off the year of series racing. As in years past, the first post-race activity will be a DIY (do it yourself) Fleet Social. Please pull your team together and come up to the clubhouse after the race. There won't be a meal – BUT there will be a fire in the fireplace and a keg of beer tapped and ready to go.

Chili Cook-Off - February 18

The last race of the Frostbite Series is February 18. Once again, we'll host the end-of-series chili cook-off. We'll be looking for 10 chili chefs to enter the competition so dust off your recipes (or come up with new ones). Prizes will be awarded to all the contestants with special grand prizes for first, second and third place as well as people's choice.

Super Bowl Party - February 5

This event is a "first annual" for the social committee and we hope to have a good crowd. It is a potluck so there will be plenty of food and of course wagering and other traditional Super Bowl activities. This is a no-budget event so we are asking you to bring your own beverages along with your potluck dish.

(Ain't Too Proud to Beg)

Of course, we welcome any Super Bowl Party sponsors who might be willing to subsidize a keg so that attendees can drink free during the festivities. And if anyone has an extra TV, it would be great to have a few of them strategically positioned for maximum viewing.

Opening Day

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 11 - Opening Day. This is a very special tradition and one of the best attended events of the year. As usual, the food and decorations will be lavish.

See you in the kitchen!



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