# TELLTALE



## **ROADRUNNER REGATTA**

**World Class Sailing and Sportsmanship** 

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Save the Dates

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Easter Laser Regatta 4/7-8

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#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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#### **AUSTIN YACHT CLUB**

5906 Beacon Drive Austin, Texas 78734-1428

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#### E-MAIL AND WEBSITE

www.austinyachtclub.net info@austinyachtclub.org

#### **NEWSLETTER**

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

#### **AYC BUSINESS HOURS**

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

Closed Mondays
Closed Club Holidays:

New Year's Day
Easter Sunday
Independence Day
Thanksgiving Day
Shopping Day
Christmas Day

January 1 April 24 July 4 November 24 November 25 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 2012 RACE CALENDAR**

 March 25
 Spring Series #2 (Ensign)

 April 1
 Spring Series #3 (SC21)

 April 7-8
 Easter Laser Regatta

 April 15
 Spring Series #4 (C-22)

 April 22
 Spring Series #5 (PHRF-A)

March 18

April 28

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

Summer Series #1 (PHRF-B) 1:30 start

Spring Series #1 (J/22) 1:30 start

## **AYC 2012 NON-RACING EVENTS**

March 17
 Race Management Seminar Brad Davis 1:00p
 March 18, 25
 AYC Racing School Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas 9:00a
 March 22
 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p
 March 24
 Spinnaker Clinic John Bartlett 1:00p

April 1, 15, 22
 AYC Racing School Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas 9:00a
 April 14
 Starting and Tactics Clinic Scott Young (time tbd)
 April 26
 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p

### Gary Devin

Former AYC member and avid C-22 racer, Gary Devin, died February 4 at the young age of 54 of a glioblastoma diagnosed less than one month earlier. Gary loved the water and sailed every chance he could. He was a good friend to many at AYC and crewed on many different boats in series races and regattas, as well as in Wurstfest and Houston NOOD regattas. Gary was an accomplished architect, local owner of Solutions Studio, and did the preliminary design work for Lakeway Regional Medical Center. A big believer in giving back to the community through service, Gary served on many professional and community boards. Gary's final battle was fast and furious but his attitude and dry wit were strong as ever until the end. Gary is survived by his mother Jane Devin, brothers Danny and Jimmy Devin, sister Mary Jane (MJ) Jelleme, daughter Courtney Devin, and son Parker Devin. He had an amazing group of friends and loved ones who his life and spirit will continue to touch. Memorial gifts in his name can be made to the Devin Fund (www.thedevinfund. org or 2709 S. Lamar Blvd, Ste. 105, 79704). A celebration of life party in his honor will be held at a later date.

#### IN MEMORIAM

#### Gary Richard Schmidt

Gary Richard Schmidt passed away peacefully on February 12 after courageously battling aggressive colon cancer for nearly a year. Gary was a technology junkie from age 10, when he became one of the youngest General Class amateur radio operators in the US, embarking on a hobby that would sow the seeds of friendships around the globe. Gary was an exceptional high-speed telegrapher. During the International Geophysical Year in 1957, when he was just starting junior high school, he served as an official communications relay operator for the American expedition in Antarctica. His favorite ham activities were international competitions. In 2009, he participated in the High Speed World Championships in Bulgaria as a member of Team USA and he was selected as a judge for the World Radiosport Team Competition in Moscow in 2010. Gary's other passions were sailboat racing with the Austin Yacht Club, golfing, and Aggie and Longhorn sports. Gary is survived by his devoted wife Leslie, brother and sisiter-in-law Phil and Dorina Schmidt sister and brother-in-law Diane and Mason Lilly, Leslie's mother Betty Lentz and brother Fred Lentz, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. A celebratory observance of Gary's life will be held at a future date.

#### Bill Word

William Brown Word, III passed away at his Austin home on February 20. Bill retired in 2006 from IBM Austin after 37 years of service as a Staff Programmer Analyst specializing in systems test. Bill earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of South Florida, He bowled in the IBM Austin league since 1976, most recently out of Highland Lanes. He was also a passionate sailboat captain and raced his Catalina 22 on Lake Travis with the Austin Yacht Club and the Catalina 22 Fleet 69 Club in Austin. Bill was predeceased by his parents William Brown Word, Jr. and Edith Wasson of Jacksonville, FL. Bill is survived by his wife of 34 years, Ann-Marie Denomme Word. His is also survived by his daughter and son-in-law Kristopher William and Jennifer Word, and their daughter Camilla Jolie. His two brothers Wayne Wyatt Word and Gary Brian Word also survive Bill. The family requests that memorial gifts in Bill's name be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Diabetes Association.

## From The Commodore

by Johannes Brinkmann



It's been a very eventful several weeks since last month's article. The temporary ramp has been installed on the east side of the point, we have taken delivery of a brand new fleet of 18 FJs, the Frostbite Series has concluded, AYC hosted a very successful Roadrunner Regatta, and to top it off the lake came up several feet and the LCRA placed restrictions on the

amount of water it will release from Lake Travis.

The 2012 Opening Day Ceremony and Regatta was March 11. Fortunately for our club, Opening Day is a bit of a misnomer, since we sail year round at AYC. Still, it is a day on which we pause to be grateful for the founders of our club, to remember the good times we shared with members who have passed, and to anticipate the exciting sailing season ahead. It's also a time to celebrate with friends and savor a fantastic brunch organized by our social committee.

In the coming weeks AYC will offer many opportunities to enjoy the Spring breezes starting with the Spring Series, the beginning of Wednesday night Sunfish and Laser racing, and Turnback Canyon Regatta. In addition, there are many adult and junior sail training events scheduled in the coming weeks, and of course the College Nationals which will begin the last week of May.

Next time you're at the club, take a minute to check out the new FJs. The UT Sailing Team and the AYC Fund have been hard at work for over a year to make this new fleet a reality. While six of the boats are designated for use by the AYC Junior sailing program and 12 are designated to the UT Team, both AYC and the UT Team will have access to all 18 boats for major college, high school and club events. This large and perfectly matched fleet of boats will be a tremendous asset to AYC and the UTST for many years to come.

This year, the Long Range Planning Committee will be refreshing AYC's Strategic Plan. The plan was created in 2007 and contains the "Vision of AYC in 2012." An important way for you to be involved in this process is to take the member survey. Look for the link on AYC's home page.

Looking forward to the coming season, I also think of the recent passing of AYC members **Gary Devin, Gary Schmidt and Bill Word** who all died this past February. We will miss them and all the AYC members who are no longer with us. Let's hoist a sail and raise a toast to them!

#### WELCOME!

New Member Preston Bezant, Young Adult

## Race Commander Report

by Barry Bowden



By the time you read this edition of the AYC Telltale, the 2012 Roadrunner Regatta will have already happened. As I write this a few days before the event, we have 58 Optimist sailors registered which includes 12 Green fleet sailors, the youngest and least experienced of the Optimist group. The Laser and FJ/420 course has 12 boats registered. This fleet usually grows

by the day of the event. Nice weather with mid 60s is forecast and a great regatta will be held as always at the Austin Yacht Club.

The Frostbite Series concluded on February 18 and we had 38 boats participate. The weather was nice for the time of year and four of the five races were held. Lack of wind was only a problem for the first race.

The AYC Opening Day Regatta was held on March 11. The race committee consisted of the 2012 AYC Board of Directors. After the usual morning brunch and opening ceremonies, and after a very rainy, cold Saturday, the sun came out and we were able to sail! More details to come next issue.

We have a Race Management Seminar scheduled for Saturday March 17 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM in the AYC clubhouse. **Brad Davis** will be bringing this to everyone with the assistance of **Vic Manning** and **Bruce McDonald**. Please register online on Regatta Network so we can provide for refreshments during the seminar.

The Spring Series will begin on Sunday March 18 with a 1:30 PM start. Race committee will be provided by the J 22 fleet. Please register online using the Regatta Network.

There is a new 90HP Honda outboard on the back of Chase 3. The motor is now broken in and ready to be used. It runs great and is so quiet you can barely hear it running. A bit of caution is advised, however, when you may be operating the boat. The bottom of the boat is showing years of wear and corrosion. This is being limited by using antifouling paint on the bottom. We have been warned though to be careful bouncing into waves. The bottom of the boat is likely fragile so we don't want anyone getting their feet wet or riding it to the bottom of the lake. A search is underway for a replacement boat of similar type.

One last bit of news. **Vic Manning and myself** attended a US Sailing Advanced Race Management Seminar at Houston Yacht Club the last weekend of February. This was an intense two-day program led by some of the best race officers in the US. Both of us learned a lot and we hope to be able to use our new knowledge in providing good racing at Austin Yacht Club this coming year.

## Harbor Commander Report by Jon Nash



We have a bunch of good news to report this month and I'll start with lake levels. On March 1 the LCRA officially decided to cut off water supply to three of the four irrigation districts downstream. The LCRA website says the following:

With the combined storage of Lakes Buchanan and Travis remaining significantly

low, LCRA will not provide Highland Lakes water to most downstream farmers this year.

The historic decision became official at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, March 1, when the combined storage of the lakes failed to reach 850,000 acre-feet. That was the level agreed upon last September by LCRA, with input from stakeholders throughout the basin, including downstream farmers, when it determined the emergency drought relief measures that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality approved in December.

Even with the recent rains, lakes Buchanan and Travis are only 42 percent full. The combined storage of the lakes Friday (March 1) was about 847,000 acre-feet. Because storage was less than 850,000 acre-feet on March 1, farmers in the Lakeside, Gulf Coast and Pierce Ranch irrigation operations will not receive any water from the Highland Lakes this year. Farmers in the Garwood irrigation operation will still receive some water from the Highland Lakes this year, up to 19,000 or 20,000 acre-feet, because of their contract with LCRA. For comparison, downstream farmers diverted about 368,000 acre-feet of Highland Lakes water last year for a first and second crop.

This is great news for users of Lake Travis and as a result the LCRA projections now show the lake dropping no lower than 620' before the end of summer – even in extreme drought conditions. Historically these projections have been on the high side, but with the drought relief measures in place for this year they may be more realistic. As long as we stay above 620' we shouldn't have to move the marina from its current location on the point.



Managing the docks will be helped by our purchase of a new slider system for dock access. This system will be in place in a few short weeks and should make access much more pleasant.

We also have some great news for dry sail access. The new East Ramp is now in place on the point thanks to Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas, Bob Mathison, Vic Manning, Kurt Carson, John Parker, Christopher Jorgenson, Roman Shor, Bruce Uphaus, Ray Shull, Derek Smigelski, Wade Bingaman, John Howard, and John Saunders. Apologies if I missed anyone.

The East Ramp is 15' wide and approximately 75' long at this time. We are planning on extending above the water line soon. Unfortunately, it is in a location that is not as steep as our preferred grade, so be aware that you may need a tongue extension or extra length of rope when using it.

We are looking for a ramp location that will allow more deep draft boats to launch and hope to have something in place soon. Until then...

## Sail Training Report by Jenny Loehlin



There is actual sail training to report at last!

Alan Rochard and Kate Noble conducted a practice session for junior sailors who were planning to race in the Roadrunner Regatta.

We had eight boats on the water, a good turnout for a somewhat chilly day. The new carpet was down on the pavilion dock in time for the practice. Bob and Matt Gibbons helped

with the carpet transport and **Matt Fuller and Bill Records** did the stapling. Thanks to everybody who turned out for the work party!

Elsewhere in this issue, there is an account of the Roadrunner Regatta – as I write this, the forecast is for good wind, on average. In other words, typical regatta conditions.

The adult sail training program is shaping up — as usual, we'll start with the intermediate/advanced classes while the water is still cool, and then move on to more beginner classes toward summer. John Bartlett's Spinnaker Clinic is on March 24 — learn hourglass avoidance and how the skipper can make the crew look good. Scott Young's Starting and Tactics Clinic is on April 14 — learn about being where you want to be, when you want to be. These classes aren't just chalk talks, they're on-the-water practice with the instructors going from boat to boat. It's a great opportunity to learn from great sailors.

The first beginning keelboat class is May 19, but we're also starting to get requests for private and semi-private lessons as the weather warms up. **Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas'** Racing School is still going strong on the mornings before series races, too. And if you have a boat in the water and friends who are interested in learning to sail, well, Spring is a nice time to be on the water. Let's get more people hooked on this sport we love!

### Roadrunner Update by Kate Noble

The 2012 Roadrunner Regatta and Texas State Junior Laser Championship was a huge success! The Roadrunner Regatta was the second stop on the Texas Sailing Association's Youth Circuit and definitely lived up to its reputation as one of the biggest youth sailing events in Texas. Over 100 youth competitors from all over Texas and neighboring states came out to the Austin Yacht Club to compete. A huge thank you goes out to our regatta chair **John Morran** and all of the staff, volunteers, and supporters who made the event possible. A lot of hard work went into getting the grounds ready, boats launched, people fed, and races run and scored.

We had typical Roadrunner Regatta conditions - a cold and windy Saturday followed by a warm, light air Sunday, 13 junior sailors from AYC participated in the regatta: Alan Rochard, Meredith Morran, Michael Morran, Alexandra Mares, Jules Bettler, Charles Larrouilh, Ben Peel, Sam Peel, Marine Graby, Michael Yost, Marcus Tita, Ben Froelich and Ethan Froelich. Our team brought several trophies home to AYC. Alan Rochard came in first place for Laser Radial, earning him the title of 2012 Texas State Champ. Meredith and Michael Morran won second place in the 420 class. Alexandra Mares placed third in Opti Blue Fleet. Marcus Tita took third place in Opti Green Fleet. The rest of our AYC sailors competed in Opti Red, Blue and Green fleets. For many of them it was their first regatta, or first competition at the Red, White, and Blue level. With 53 Optis at the RWB starting line, it was certainly a good learning experience! Considering the conditions and how early it is in our season, our AYC Opti sailors did a fantastic job! I am very proud of all of their efforts and can't wait to get to work to get ready for the next one. I would love to get our AYC junior sailors on the road and more involved in Texas Sailing Association events. For more information on the TSA Youth Circuit, schedule, and full Roadrunner Regatta results, please visit their website at http://www.txsail.org/.

Our regular season practices for the 2012 season begin this month. Starting March 10, we will be holding weekly practices on Saturdays for Green Fleet Opti Racing from 1:30 to 4:00 and Lasers from 4:00 to 6:30. On Thursday afternoons, there will be practice for Beginners and Basics from 4:00 to 6:30. A reminder to all junior sailors to RSVP to practices!

In addition to weekly practices, I will test-run a new Free Sail Sunday on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00. During this time, all junior sailors are invited to come down to the pavilion to use our Sail Training boats for free sailing, extra practice, or sailing with family members. I will be on hand to help rig and derig, check sailors in and out, assist with any troubleshooting and ensure everyone stays safe. Our first Free Sail Sunday will be Sunday, March 18.

Looking ahead, our Summer programs will be here before you know it! Registration for PB&J and Summer Camp will be live on the AYC website this month. If you are interested in volunteering or working for either program, please contact me or **Jennifer Loehlin**, as we will begin hiring this month.

## **ROADRUNNER REGATTA**

By Bill Records

The Annual Roadrunner Junior Regatta has always been one of the most successful and competitive regattas at AYC. This year was no exception, with 93 boats competing from just about all the yacht clubs in Texas. In addition, the results of the Laser classes, radial and 4.7 determine the Texas Sailing Association state junior champions.

#### The classes include:

- Opti: Green (beginners); White Age 10 and under;
   Blue Age 11-12; Red Age 13-15
- · Laser: 4.7; Radial
- FJ.
- 420

Three separate courses were set up with the Opti Red, White, and Blue, Laser and FJ. and 420, set up in the main lake. The Opti Green was set just off the keelboat docks with the spectators watching from the T – heads of the docks.

The conditions were superb for racing. Saturday was cool with winds 15-25 mph and Sunday warm with winds around 10-15 mph.

In the 420 and FJ. classes the winners were dominant, winning most of the races. The rest of both fleets were very close in competition. The Laser fleets offered spectacular racing with lots of capsizing on Saturday. The action out on the Red, White, and Blue Opti course was extraordinary. It was amazing to see 53 Optis on the starting line with the wind gusting to 25 mph and very few stragglers. Some were world class Opti sailors and I can't remember seeing more competitive fleets anywhere.

This year's regatta received some significant media attention. The local press continued to ignore but Fox Sports Southwest sent a film crew to cover our event for a kid's TV show called "Hometown Kids" to be aired in April. In addition to filming the action from our "media" boat, they attached remote cameras onto two of the competitor's boats. They also conducted an interview with coach **Kate Noble**, some of the kids and parents. This should be a terrific show and we will let you know the date and time of airing. The producers said that they would send us a DVD as well.

This years Roadrunner Regatta reinforced its reputation as the "flagship" regatta at AYC. The competition was world class and the sportsmanship was exemplary with very few protests. The Corinthian Spirit was very evident. I saw **Stuart Draheim**, 420 winner, helping the other competitors with rigging. AYC's own **Alexandra Mares**, when not competing, helped the Green fleeters with their boats and gave much encouragement. AYC had 10 juniors competing. **Alan Rochard** won the Laser Radial class and he is state champion. **Alexandra Mares** took 3rd in Opti Blue and 6th over all. **Meredith and Michael Morran** took 2nd in the 420 class, beating the champion in one race. In the Opti Green, **Marcus Tita** sailed consistently to take 3rd place. Congratulations go to Regatta Chairs **John and Amy Morran** for another super job. Check out the photos on the next pages!

## **ROADRUNNER REGATTA**



AYC Roadrunners with Coach Kate Noble



Sammy Peel



Regatta Chair John Morran



Michael Yost





Opti out-of-town competitor



Marcus Tita rounds the mark



Ben Froelich has inside position



Alexandra Mares helps out the Green fleeters



Marcus Tita



420 Winner Stuart Draheim gives Michael and Meredith Morran tips on rigging



Louie Graby ready to sail!



Overall champion Sophia Sole on left





Coach Kate interviewed by Fox Sports Southwest



Third place Opti Blue trophy winner Alexandra Mares with Coach Kate



Laser state champion Alan Rochard at the starting line of a winning race



420 tropy winners

## ROADRUNNER REGATTA VOLUNTEER THANK YOU by John Morran

The 2012 Roadrunner Regatta was hosted by the Austin Yacht Club on March 3-4. This event is the second regatta on the 2012 TSA Youth Sailing Circuit. The turnout was fantastic – over 100 competitors sailing in Opti Green Fleet, Opti RWB Fleet, C420, FJ, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7 classes. Other than Texas Youth Race Week in July, AYC's Roadrunner is the largest youth sailing event in the State of Texas.

Obviously, an event like this could not happen without the help of our Club Staff and many hardworking volunteers. Please let the following people know how much you appreciate their hard work for AYC:

AYC Staff – Steve Hawks, Pam Radebaugh and Tom Cunningham

AYC Board - Johannes Brinkmann and Jennifer Loehlin

Roadrunner Team - Coach Kate Noble

Registration – JoAnn Welles (chair), Twila Bowden, Brent and Jen Schwan, John Burns, Linda McDavitt, Claude Welles

Meals – Susan Dwight (co-chair) and Marcy and Jeff Berbrick (co-chair), Polly Peel, Isabelle Bettler, Terry McDaniel, Claire Graby and the entire Graby Family

Race Committee – Kelly and Bill Hawk (PRO – Opti GF), Ray Shull (PRO – Opti RWB), Yolanda and Adolph Mares, Renee Ruais, Rob Stivers, John and Connor Burns, Dave Gamble, Phillipe Bettler and Sandra Helen, Barry Bowden (PRO – Laser, FJ, 420), Claude Welles, Jen and Brent Schwan, Coach Dan from St. Stanislaus, Eric and Brigette Rochard, Jack and Isabelle Faguet

FJ Fleet Organizer - Steve Gay

Harbor & Grounds – Vic Manning, Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas, Bob Mathison, John Parker, Bruce Uphaus, Steve Gay, UT Sailing Team, Jon Nash and all the volunteers who got the docks and new ramp ready

Scoring - Renee Ruais (chair) and Yolanda Mares

T-Shirts - Cathy Ellenbrook at Travis Graphics

Photographs - Bill Records and Dave Gamble

Promotion - Doug Kern

Support Boats – John Bartlett of Bartlett Sails, Steve Gay and John Saunders



Opti Green sailors



Laser Radial winners



State Laser champs Alan Rochard (Radial) and Collin Scoville (4.7)

## Seeing the Light by Jim Johnstone

The Non Spin Fleet, usually composed of a group of happy-go-lucky racers – cruisers in boats weighing in at over 4,000 pounds – is occasionally graced by the presence of much lighter weight purposebuilt racing sleds. I figure if you do not have a place for at least one keg of beer on your boat, it is purpose-built for racing. One of my friends asked me why do all those Hot Rods want to come out and race with you guys in your tug boats? They always clean your clock.

So I started to wonder myself: Do they just like me to have a clean timepiece or can something else explain this, like my lack of sailing ability? Whenever heavy thinking like this is required, it is time to go below and root around for the appropriate beverage. While I was looking in the cooler I noticed some Guinness Stout in there. I used to have a crew that liked to drink that stuff. He hasn't sailed with me for two years but here I was hauling around his favorite brew, just in case.

I began to look around the rest of the boat for stuff I had on board "just in case" that was seldom used. The next thing I noticed was a spinnaker pole. Just in case all the sport boats decide to race Non Spin, I can race in B fleet! Then there was every sail I ever owned including one from a Catalina 22 I once had, and of course, a spinnaker. Surprising how much weight there was in those bags of sails.

There were nuts and bolts of every description, extra blocks, pieces of turnbuckles, cleaning supplies, snorkel and mask, spare boat shoes and sailing gloves, all the foul weather gear I ever owned – including some that was worn back when they still sailed the America's Cup in monohulls using Dacron sails. I had enough tools to outfit a blacksmith's shop. I noticed the long broken VHF radio since replaced by a handheld. I had the Porta-Potty, last used three years ago during Turnback and probably never emptied. Back in the battery bay I had an extra battery. And I found my spare anchor there as well.

Hmmm ... I wonder if all this extra weight is slowing me down? I began to think back to my high school physics and came up with F= M times A. Force = Mass times Acceleration. I have a lot of mass here on my boat so I must be a force to be reckoned with! Or maybe if I look at that another way, Acceleration = Force divided by Mass. Do I need to worry about acceleration?

Well just when I start, right? Oh yeah and when I tack? And what about when the wind picks up? So if I was sailing on the ocean, far from land and chase boats and could sail the same tack forever in a constant breeze, it would be smart to carry stuff just in case and not worry too much about acceleration. I could use all that extra weight to punch through waves and ride down the back of them. But here on Lake Travis I guess I do not need it, so I am going to do a little Spring cleaning.

I am putting my boat on a diet and removing (I did not say getting rid of) those items not essential for racing. I am throwing out all the beer over a year old (I have to draw the line somewhere) and replacing it with Lite beer. I still may not keep up with the Hot Rods so I will just have to lull them into a sense of complacency and hope the handicap works in my favor.

## **Yolanda Mares Sails the Mediterranean**



Alexandra Mares (USA #19299) raced in the Mediterranean at the Palamos Optimist Trophy International Regatta in Palamos, Spain on February 17, 2012, passing a Russian Opti sailor at the gate. Over 359 of the best Opti sailors in the world, including 20 sailors from the U.S., raced at this open event, which is the second largest international Opti regatta in the world. Alexandra traveled to Spain with a private team, Team RacingSailor.org, which consisted of five sailors from Florida, Connecticut and Texas, and their event coach, U.S. National Team's Juan Carlos Romero. They trained for three days in what started as a brutal 30-32 knot sustained wind gusting to 40 knots and chilly 30 degree temperatures on the first day, then diminishing to 9-12 knots gusting to 40 knots on the third day, with German teams and Spanish teams, also braving the weather, running speed drills and practice races, studying the current, wind shifts, and local conditions. During the regatta, all the sailors were divided into six divisions and races were held between two divisions at a time with rolling starts on a trapezoid course with a gate. This means about 120 sailors battled each start line, and they all had to learn how to defend themselves on the race course in a new language: Catalan. For example, calling out starboard right of way in Catalan was "agua", asking for room as a leeward boat was "so pa viento." Protest flags were not used. Many sailors were black flagged and some protests were filed on shore. With this kind of competition, Alexandra was very happy to be able to reach a position of 159 after five races during the first two days of racing. On the last day, a sixth race was held, then the wind died in the middle of the race course, changing everyone's final score. What a great experience! The winner was a sailor from Spain, Joan Cardona Mendez. Top girl was from Curacao, Netherland Antilles, Odile Van Aanholt. U.S. sailors took three of the top 10 spots. Way to go U.S. Opti sailors! For detailed race results and great photos, please see www.palamosoptimisttrophy.org.

## J/24 Fleet Update by David Broadway

**John and Meiling Parker** are busy refitting their J/24 Free Spirit, while building their new team including **Roman Shor** trimming and several new prospective crew. The Frostbite Series proved a good opportunity to coordinate the new team. **Stephen Burke** on Out of Control provided a standard to track progress.

The wet-slipped J/24s will open the Spring Series on March 18. Hopefully by then we will be able to launch the dry sailed portion of the fleet. The dry sailed boats are a bit closer to being able to launch/retrieve with the recent placement of metal landing strip material for a new ramp.

Pat Caughey and Chris Lombardo raced the 2012 J/24 Midwinters in Tampa, FL with Charlie Singstad on Code Blue. The highlight for the team was a 6th place race finish against a very deep field of 27 competitors. The event began in very cold, blustery conditions, but it did warm up with somewhat light wind.

The 2012 J/24 TX Circuit Regatta first stop is March 31 - April 1 at the Houston YC as part of the Elissa Regatta, followed by the FWBC Cowtown Stampede stop on April 14-15.

### SC21 Fleet Update by Carl Wiseman

One Design Frostbite Series Won by a South Coast 21!

Bruce McDonald with crew members assembled from various walks of life emerged victorious in the first major series of the year. It was a great series with the weather cooperating more than we have seen in previous seasons. After racking up several major victories in the last six months, Bruce is now prepared to take on a major new challenge, namely, to develop the ability to go out and "just sail around" employing the finely tuned techniques of VMB (Velocity Made Bad) that so many of us have already mastered. Bruce looks forward to the challenge and will start with a 10-step plan to reach his goal. The first implementation of the plan is to limit jib adjustments to a maximum of 10 during each tack. We hope the fleet will support Bruce in this very difficult challenge.

With the recent rainfall, the lake level has risen several feet – not bad for a La Nina year (if you are into climate change terminology). However, the lake still remains low and the situation could continue for quite some time. When extreme needs arise, there is always a South Coast fleet member who will stand up to the challenge. Recognizing the need for more launch options, Ray Shull recently purchased the ultimate sailing toy - a giant crane. The crane will be available, at a minimal charge, two to three times a month for launching even the largest boats in the club. Also, in the quest to provide the highest reliability possible, engineering field tests were performed on the crane to better understand the ultimate limits of this essential piece of equipment. At this point, empirical data is now available so that the precise load for determining the key engineering parameter known as "tipping point" is known. The engineering field test was performed in a safe environment, and the crane was easily rolled back to the upright position at the conclusion of the experiment. After a thorough hosing, it is now ready to go. Please thank Ray for helping in this way, and don't hesitate to volunteer to help when he starts the launches. If you don't feel like suffering the ignominy of a Blue Duck award while employing the crane to get you back into the water, you can contract with master machinist **Pat Feagin** to install a lifting eye inside the cabin to the keel of your boat. Since Pat has suffered post traumatic stress from last year's Blue Duck episode, he has not been able to make those critical first steps to get back into a South Coast again. Using his expertise in machining, he can install a reliable lifting eye on your boat, and also strike down the demons that have prevented him from getting back into the saddle of a South Coast. Rumor has it that he has been spotted on a very large stable boat that can be seen at early start times of the past series, so there is still hope for him.

Speaking of launchings, **Steve Gay** was able to both launch and retrieve his boat from the gravel ramp. Also, **Scott Walsh** launched his newly purchased boat Pog mo Thoin! and is readying the boat for the Spring Series. The name of Scott's boat is based on a quaint Celtic vernacular that reflects the attitude of the South Coast Fleet.



You may have heard the popular Irish poem excerpt "may the wind always be at your back." Well, the name reflects this attitude with a slight twist. For a literal translation, please consult a Gaelic to English dictionary.

#### Intergalactics Update

The new, now semi-formalized date is Saturday, May 19. **Bruce McDonald** was kind enough to submit the South Coast FUR

document (I was afraid to even ask what it stands for). It turns out
that the April date conflicted with some training activity planned at
the club. Let's squelch the rumor right now that a contingent of AYC
members wanted to have a South Coast demolition derby during this
year's Intergalactics "to get some of those unused old boats out of
here." There is no merit to this rumor. So, ignore the detractors and
come out for a good showing. More on this next month.

Along the lines of recruitment, the racing school is always in need of matching boats to students. One of the students joined Rogue Warrior and contributed to the Frostbite Series win. This is one way we can get more participation in the fleet. Talk with **Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas** about how to match up some of the students to your boat. Also, there are a lot of people requesting to crew on the club bulletin board; they are ready and willing to crew.

That is it for this month, the Spring Series is just around the corner. Happy Sailing!

## Ensign Fleet Update by Kelly Groll

Ensign sailors,

Sounds like 2012 has started out with some fun and some excitement on the water. Here is a recap of the Mid Winters down in Houston:

Jonathan Baker wins the Ensign Class races at HYC Midwinters Regatta! Jonathan took George (aka 'Hans') and Danny down to HYC for the midwinters the second weekend in February, and got a bullet in each race!

Here is a recap from the team: Saturday morning it was 41 degrees and blowing 21 knots at 1030 race time, with a wind chill of 28 degrees per the weather station monitor in the HYC bar. The one-design line (Vipers, Ensigns, J-105s and Lightnings) postpone flag was raised and was welcomed as many of us managed to gather around the lit fireplace. However the norther laid a little to 15-17 knots and at 1130 to our amazement the flag lowered and two thirds of the fleet prepared to go out. The winds were a little easterly and the smell was of Baytown instead of Deer Park/ Pasadena and with the short fetch from the spoil banks the waves seldom splashed us, so all was well.

Pedro, sailmaker of the UK loft, was also on board and he called for constant easing/trimming of the traveler/mainsheet. Pedro kept his hands on the blade winch, which he also constantly worked. The wind had some light spots, and though were a little punched out in front of the fleet, whenever we got outside a little after chasing wind, Pedro had us foot for speed to get centered and on top. The little things made big differences and we won two races. After that our competitors asked to bail from the final late afternoon race and all the Ensigns went in. We hit the fireplace and the bar.

Sunday was colder, in the high 30s but again after two hours of postponement the wind had abated enough to go out and there was again little spray as the wind was due east with even less fetch so the waves were small. We didn't have Pedro and we also ate some bad air just after the start from an upwind Viper and Dick Baxter got just ahead of us. We fought with Dick passing him at a top mark when a Viper got in his way, and then just barely held our lead as the wind fell light to a very downwind finish with collapsing spinnakers.

HYC was wonderful and a great host. We were dined in the Commodore's Room with the **Sniders** and other fleet members Friday night and continued to visit and party at the club for three days. It was fun to talk about boats instead of politics. **Billy Richnow** loaned us Dynamite #619 for the Regatta.

And sounds like the Frostbite Series also was fun for all. Recap compliments of **Randolph Bertin**:

Here are some recollections from the Frostbite Series. The first weekend was really beautiful weather, but unfortunately no wind. We left the harbor in a decent enough breeze but once congregating around the starting line, it fizzled and died. So, no race.

The second, third and fourth race days were all quite breezy – wind in the mid to high teens with gusts in the low 20s, always out

of NNE. In Frostbite #2, Ensign #1068 (with George Dahmen, Claudia Peterson and new crew Elizabeth Law) got an early lead and went on to crush the rest of the fleet (Dos Locos, Prime Time and Esmeralda, I think). In Frostbite #3, Randolph sent George over to sail with Lewis on Dos Locos, who otherwise had only junior sailor William Atkinson on board. Lewis Price and Dos Locos went on to win it, making it George Dahmen 2 vs rest of fleet 0. Ensign #810, Prime Time (Elliott, Deke, John Howard, and John Gryzinich), finished second with Randolph bringing up the stern.

Frostbite #4, **George** was down in Houston at the midwinters, so it was a free-for-all, but all only included Prime Time and Festina Lente (Dos Locos had a previous engagement?). Prime Time staked out an early lead and in spite of several attempts to close the gap, Festina never could. It was the last leg that saw the most dramatic comeback fall short. According to **Deke**, on board, #810, when asked why they went left and didn't cover **Randolph** out on the right side, where he picked up a huge lift to the finish, "we were a little... we had had... let's just say the ice chest was empty." (that's not a direct quote, but captures the essence of the situation).

On Frostbite #5, there had been storms that morning, and #810 was the Ensign on the water. They started but did not finish after a port/starboard incident with #810 being starboard boat.

Now that Frostbite is behind us, let's get ready for Spring Series. Our next fleet social is March 18, potluck, so bring something fun and let's go sailing! And remember Ensigns have Race Committee duty series race #2, March 25.

Also, several people have already submitted Fleet dues to **Norma Lien**, so if you are an active Ensign sailor please get this dues sent in. Remember those dues help to supplement Fleet socials, our Ensign annual meeting and even help with some travel expenses to big Regattas.

That's it for now, fair sailing, see you on the water!





duckwatch88@yahoo.com We're watching!

## C22 Fleet Update

#### THE LAUNCH RAMP IS IN!!! THE LAUNCH RAMP IS IN!!

It's great to be excited about sailing again. Funny how actually being able to get our boats in the water improves our attitude. It is clear the fleet is ready to sail as we had at least a dozen fleet members out for the boat work day. **Jordan Owens** and his new crew **Clay** pressure washed their boat inside and out. **Ted Owens** also took advantage of the washers to clean up Mojo.



Jordan and Ted get to cleaning

**John Gryzinich** got Ted to help him raise Bebop A Lula's mast. **Brett Wilson** and all-star crew, **Cindy**, somehow tricked me into lifting their mast. **Johannes** has his boat in the shop for repairs, but he was at the event to offer his advice to everyone. **Roy Crouse** 



Pressure washing brain trust

and Art Bussey measured Ted's beautiful new genoa. Our newest fleet members (about whom you will hear more later), Brian Jones and Sami Lipman, met everyone and even had a little time afterward to continue cleaning their boat. The teak on their boat is awesome!! Peter Broberg had a long time friend, Gordon, in town but brought him out to meet the fleet. Believe it or not, I think everyone had a really good time. We have a great fleet.

But now it's time to race. The Spring Series starts March 18. If you haven't already done so, please sign up online for the series. We need to have a lot of C22s signed up so we will get our own start. We do not want to lose that privilege.

The new ramp might be difficult for cars or short trailers to launch. Any time I am at the club I will be glad to use my truck to launch your boat if needed. Also, there are several other fleet members with trucks. So don't be shy. Ask one of them to launch you. In fact, you could check with the fleet during the week to make sure in advance that you will have a launch vehicle available. We need to get racing again.

#### **NEW FLEET MEMBERS**

Please welcome our newest fleet members **Brian Jones and Sami Lipman**. They just bought a C22 from a club member and are keeping their boat in a wet slip. They are currently doing a general cleanup on the boat. Brian's profession is in marketing, but his true calling is as a brewer. The fleet eagerly awaits sampling some of his beers. **Sami** is a yoga instructor and a dancer. They plan on naming their boat Rhythm & Brews.



Sami and Brian

Sami and Brian love the water but are relatively new to sailing. They plan on taking advantage of the club's classes to improve their skills. They also hope to start their racing education by crewing on some of our fleet's boats. This is a great opportunity for our fleet to get to know these two, help them learn racing, and get crew to boot! Please think of Brian and Sami for crew whenever you plan on racing this season.

## Keel Fleet Update by JoAnn Welles

Frostbite Series ran the gamut from no wind in the first scheduled race to a wet and windy last race. The conditions showed in the results – few competitors came out for all the races. I especially want to thank race committee for taking pity on us and shortening that last race! I've sailed in much colder and certainly wetter conditions, but the combination wore on us after awhile! Thank goodness for good foul weather gear. Frostbite lived up to its name with the northeast wind showing up most Saturdays.

#### Spinnaker A

10 different boats competed in Spinnaker A, all J Boats – seven J80s and three J29s. Imagine, **Matt Romberg's** J29, came in first overall with two firsts and a second. Matt showed great consistency, with his throwout being a third. **Larry Ratliff** in Restless, his J80, came in 2nd, and **Ray Shull** in Mostly Harmless, a J29, came in 3rd.

#### Other news:

- Rob Stivers in Jammin' broke in a lot of new crew this series.
   Jammin' has also been taking out new sailors as part of AYC's informal sail training program. Thanks, Rob, for introducing new sailors to our sport.
- Greg Scully's "Woody" chute died a slow death after doing some shrimping at the leeward mark in the 3rd race. Fortunately Greg had already taken delivery on a new spinnaker, so Woody can be retired.
- We knew sailboat racing could be a contact sport, but Restless
  was in the mood to play bumper boats before the race even
  started. After a hookup at the dock, Jackrabbit's motor housing
  proved stronger than Restless' toe rail. Imagine and Restless
  then had a brief entanglement before the start. After the race
  actually started, all was well.

The race schedule has been firmed up and A fleet will have Race Committee duty as follows: Spring race 5, on April 22; Dog Days race 4, on August 4; and Fall race 4 on November 11.

#### Spinnaker B

Six sailors competed in Spinnaker B for Frostbite, but no one sailed more than two races of the three scheduled. In fact the only two racers who competed in race #3 weren't in the other two. **Kevin Reynolds** in Dragon came in 1st in both races he sailed. **Brad Kocen** in Sweet Agony came in 2nd overall, and **David Lewis** in Vitamin Sea came in 3rd.

#### NonSpinnaker

The Race Commander agreed to split NonSpinnaker into two groups for scoring purposes and see how many boats turned out. NonSpinnaker boats' handicaps range from the 70s for **Jim Henrickson's** 11 meter, Warrior, to much loftier ratings in the 200s. **Jim Johnstone**, the NonSpinnaker fleet captain, wrote a funny article in this Telltale, entitled 'Seeing the Light' that highlights the challenge of the disparity in ratings causes, and his response. Unfortunately only one boat of the three registered for

NonSpinnaker B actually raced while seven raced in NonSpinnaker A. Perhaps the split between fleets is in the wrong place!

Warrior took overall honors in Spinnaker A, with three firsts. **Trey Amrhein** in Hakuna Matata came in 2nd and **Jim Johnstone** in his S2, S2 Pendo, came in 3rd.

## Multi-hull Fleet Update by Steve Piche

With low lake levels at Lake Travis, the multi-hull fleet was forced to take the show on the road in the month of February.



The weekend of February 11-12 found a group of AYC multi-hullers at the Houston Yacht Club for their Mid-Winter's Regatta. Making the trip were senior members **Bo Kersey**, **Steve Piche and Michael Yost**. A cold front blew in the day before the race and we were all greeted with some chilly mid-Winter weather. Despite the cold, on Saturday, the intrepid AYC members donned their cold weather gear and headed out for three invigorating races in good winds of 10-15 mph. Good fun was had on the race course but it was cold. The warm showers following the race were well appreciated.



On Sunday we were greeted by even chillier conditions and after the first postponement, we decided to pack it in and head home.

continued next page

**Steve Piche** got the 2nd, **Bo Kersey** was 3rd and **Michael Yost** took 4th in the F-18 fleet. The regatta was won by a non-AYC member who wins all the races so do we even need to mention his name? (John Tomko)



Next up on the schedule was a trip to Matagorda Beach for the weekend of February 25-26. However, when another cold front rolled through, the event was cancelled and we decided to head to Lake Canyon for a day of practice racing.

Making the trip down to LCYC were senior members **Bo Kersey**, **Steve Piche**, **Philippe Bettler**, **Rick Nelson and Jim Rehage**. Once again, the wind was great while the water was cold (especially for those who ended up swimming).

We were able to pull off four races in 10-15 mph winds with some good gusts coming through at around 20. It was very tight racing among the four boats. No official results were recorded but if they had been, it would have been **Philippe Bettler** on top sailing on **Clay Cassard's** new C2.

We've had fun sailing at HYC and LCYC this past month; however, we would like to be back sailing on our home turf. Right now, Lake Travis is just too low to allow good racing on many of the cats. This is a big disappointment as we have one of the strongest multi-hull fleets in the state. We need to pray for more rain so that we can get back on Lake Travis and off the road.

## BEER CAN RACES START APRIL 6!

## **COMING UP**

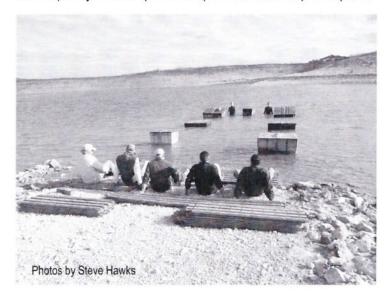
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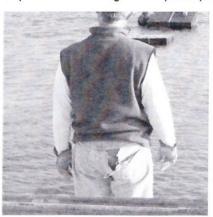
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## From the Desk of the GM by Steve Hawks

March is already here and activity around the club has been hectic. Since my last article many exciting projects have successfully taken shape. One of the most noteworthy has been the temporary boat ramp. The ramp is built out of surplus airplane

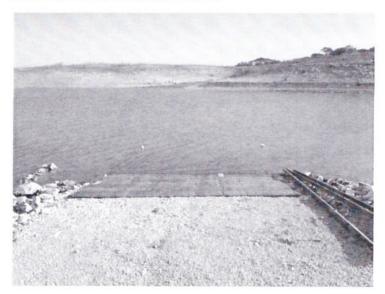


steel landing mats. The ramp sections are pieced together and slid into the water. The key to this project was to find the right slope before installing the ramp. Despite a small work party the



project was completed in two days with the only casualty being one volunteer's favorite pair of jeans.

This concentrated effort resulted in the Ramp being completed in time for use during the Roadrunner Regatta.



Speaking of using the ramp, the new FJ Fleet arrived and during the next few weeks the boats should be rigged and ready for launch on the new ramp.



The ramp is not the only new addition to the club. If you look below the office you will see the new Hap McCollum memorial

bench overlooking the harbor. There was an official dedication during the Opening Day ceremony.

In preparation for Opening Day, Buildings and Grounds had a work party to dress up the club. Leaves were raked, shrubs trimmed and flowers planted. All



in all a great effort by the work party volunteers.



These are but a few of the many Spring activities that have occurred during the past month. More will be highlighted in the Telltales to come. AYC members should take great pride in knowing that the volunteer spirit is alive and well at the Austin Yacht Club.

## Social Committee News by Susie McDonald

First of all, welcome to new social committee members **Deborah Mathison and Annie Frey.** Deborah and Annie have already contributed a ton of talent and energy to the social committee effort. If you see them in the kitchen, stop by and say hello.

The Frostbite Series meals were a great success. It was the beginning of the year so we weren't sure how well they would be attended – especially with the continuing low lake levels. We were pleasantly surprised! Attendance was up significantly from the last half of 2011 and everyone came hungry.

The end-of-series banquet featured a New Orleans-style dinner orchestrated by guest chef, **Jim Rehage**. It's been a couple years since Jim cooked for us and we missed him! He would like to make the NOLA-style dinner an annual event pre-Mardi Gras time. Thank you, Jim, and thanks also to the social committee members who helped out with this work-intensive meal.

The Opening Day brunch and ceremony were held on March 11. Again, great attendance and a huge success. I will write more about the festivities in the April issue of Telltale.

The Spring Series kicks off on March 18. Remember, the social committee is "on vacation" the first race of every series. Many of the fleets are taking advantage of this time to have fleet socials. Don't let your fleet go home malnourished after race #1 – the weather is great, it's Spring – plan a fleet get-together for March 18.

That leaves four opportunities for Spring Series meals and we have a great menu planned for each of them. Join us on March 25, April 1 and 15 for the "regular" series meals and don't miss the CHILI COOK-OFF on April 22. It's a little later than usual this year but the timing is always perfect for a little competition and a lot of chili. If you are interested in being a contestant, please send me an email at <code>ghowiellc@aol.com</code>.

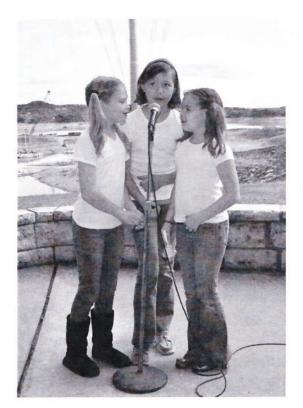
See you in the kitchen!



duckwatch88@yahoo.com

### **UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

March Spring Series Meal	Mar 25
April Spring Series Meal Spring Series Meal End-of-Series Chili Cook-Off	Apr 01 Apr 15 Apr 22
May Summer Series Meal – Cinco! Summer Series Meal	May 05 May 12
June Summer Series Meal End-of-Series Potluck/Ice Cream Social Summer Party	Jun 09 Jun 16 Jun 23
July Dog Days Series Meal Dog Days Series Meal	Jul 21 Jul 28
August Dog Days Series Meal End-of-Series Banquet	Aug 04 Aug 11
September Late Summer Series Meal Late Summer Series Meal	Sep 16 Sep 23
October End-of-Series Banquet Fall Series Meal	Oct 14 Oct 28
November Fall Series Meal End-of-Series Banquet	Nov 04 Nov 11
<u>December</u> Annual Banquet	Dec 07





What do these folks have in common? Find out in the April issue of Telltale.

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