



Come Out to the Club!

Racing, Social Events and More

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Tribute to Terry McDermott

Commodore's Report

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Save the Date

Frostbite Series 1:30 start
Feb 9, Feb 16

Mardi Gras Banquet & Frostbite
Awards Ceremony
February 16 5:00 p.m.

J/24 - J/22 Fleet Meeting
Feb 16 8:30 p.m.

Junior Sailing Pizza Party &
Info Session
Feb 21 6:00 p.m.

Racing Rules
Race Committee Seminar
Feb 23 All Day

Board of Directors Meeting
Feb 28 7:30 p.m.

Building & Grounds Work Party
March 2 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Rain Date March 9

Opening Day Ceremony & Regatta
March 3

Friday Night at the Movies
Every Friday Night thru March,
7:00 p.m.



Cover photo by Deborah Mathison

In Memoriam

Terry McDermott
July 10, 1942 - February 1, 2013



How lovely is the white town, smiling as it lies,
With its green growing gardens, beneath the bright blue skies,
Days so full of sunshine, nights so full of glee,
Oh, a fair place, a rare place, for sailors in from sea.

C. Fox Smith, 1914

Terrence Leo McDermott passed away peacefully February 1, 2013 after a brief illness. He was born July 10, 1942 in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Terry served on a tour of duty in the U.S. Navy from 1959 to 1964 after which he began working at IBM, Lexington, Kentucky in January 1965. He transferred to Austin, Texas in July of 1968 with the IBM Magnetic Card Selectric Typewriter group, and held several managerial positions in IBM manufacturing. Terry retired from IBM in July of 1992 and has enjoyed his retirement years spending most of his time at the Austin Yacht Club on Lake Travis. This was his "home away from home." He was already planning a trip back to Kentucky to spend time with his brothers and their families in the Spring.

Terry was a very kind and generous soul. He loved spending time on (or near) the water teaching young people all about sailing. His daily presence and cheerful witticisms will be greatly missed by his many friends at AYC. In the last five years of his life, Terry's Christian faith was renewed. He felt called to return to the church. He was an active participant with the Landing's Group, and he was a faithful attendant of Sunday Mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church.

Terry is survived by his sons Jeff (Denise) McDermott and Steve (Twyla) McDermott, both of Austin; twin grandsons Travis and Trevor McDermott of Austin; and his ex-wife Henrietta McDermott of Austin. He is also survived by two brothers, James Edward (Patti) McDermott, Alexandria, Kentucky; Thomas (Mary) McDermott, Nicholasville, Kentucky; and sister Margaret Ann Allison, St. Petersburg, Florida. Also surviving him are nine nieces and nephews whom he adored very much. He was loved by all his many IBM and Austin Yacht Club friends and anyone who met him. He was predeceased by his father Edward J. McDermott, Sr. and mother Loretta Dean of Newport, Kentucky.

Visitation is scheduled Tuesday, February 5 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at All Faiths Funeral Home (8507 North I-35 Frontage Road in Austin) with a Rosary to follow. A Memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, February 6 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church (10205 Ranch Road 620 North, Austin).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Thomas More Catholic Church or to the AYC Educational Fund for young sailors.

Terry, fair winds and following seas and long may your big jib draw!

Race Calendar and Non-Racing Events have moved to page 15

From The Commodore by Christopher Dwight



As usual, the January board meeting was a busy one, with a lot of critical business brought forward that will shape both the upcoming year and the long term sustainability of our club. Among the motions passed were the 2013 racing calendar, the 2013 operating budget, and the 2013 capital spending plan. Following these were several motions authorizing major

improvements to AYC in the coming months. These include replacing our aging Dock 2, extension of the North Ramp to provide better shallow water access to dry sailed boats, new stairs and ramp for in-cove access to our dock-slider system, connecting docks to tie our marina structure together and free-up our hijacked rigging and board boat docks, replacing our aging and leaking clubhouse roof, and fixing our finicky gate. These are significant and long-term improvements that will have a noticeable impact on our club in 2013 and for years to come.

A large part of what has allowed us to engage in such an ambitious program of capital improvement has been a very disciplined financial strategy over the past several years. Dues increases combined with very careful spending have allowed AYC to build up a significant "war chest" of funds that we will be leveraging not only this year but in years to come. A key part of this strategy has been ensuring that our revenue does not decay. This brings us to the topic of dues increases.

As you may have already heard, the board approved increases in both dues and storage. For most members, this amounts to a few extra dollars a month in membership, and a few extra dollars in storage. The primary driver for increasing dues is to ensure that we are able to maintain our revenue to support the ongoing sustainability of the club. One of the major reasons for the increase is the fact that we have had an overall decline in membership for the past several years. Our costs have gone up slightly, and when spread across a smaller membership base, every member has to pay slightly more. This is a short term solution - the long term solution requires AYC to get much better at attracting and retaining new, active members. In order to avoid perpetual year-after-year dues increases, it is critical that we not only stop the decline in membership, but actually grow our membership pool. This will require an effort from all current members, as well as some creative thinking.

You may recall the Telltale article in which I talked about trying to find ways to make the club more attractive to new members and better at grooming and retaining new sailors. This is really critical to our long term sustainability. As a club, we have launched or expanded several programs specifically targeted at growing our membership. This includes bringing on a full time sailing instructor so that we can greatly expand our services to new or novice sailors, actively marketing our camp and sail training programs, and several other initiatives. Attracting and retaining new members is

also the responsibility of each and every existing member. Talk to friends, colleagues and neighbors about our fantastic club. Invite them to come out for a beer can race, Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas's Racing School, or send their kids to our wonderful camp programs. When you are out at AYC and you see a new face, don't be shy. Go over and introduce yourself and make sure the new member feels welcome. Ask how you can help them integrate into the club - invite them to fleet events and upcoming social events.

Vice Commodore Report by John Morran



The AYC Racing and Regatta Calendar was approved at the January board meeting and I am happy to report that we have a very full year of racing ahead of us in 2013. My main focus for the next several weeks is planning for the upcoming club regattas.

The first regatta at AYC will be the **OPENING DAY REGATTA** a one-day event on March 3. The event will start with a brunch and Opening Day ceremony for club members and regatta participants. Racing will follow in the afternoon for PHRF, Portsmouth Multihulls and a dinghy course for Optis and FJs (club boats available for charter).

EASTER LASER REGATTA is on March 30-31. Few regattas have as much personality (and competitive sailing) as **Fred Schroth's** annual bunny fest. Lasers of all shapes and sizes (Full, Radial and 4.7) are welcome. Get ready to hike hard and sail fast.

Next on the calendar will be the **ROADRUNNER REGATTA** on April 6-7. This youth event is part of the TSA Youth Circuit and typically has over 100 participants from all over Texas and a few teams from Louisiana and Mississippi. AYC Roadrunners should contact **Kate Noble** about practice sessions and reserving club boats for this exciting event.

The feature event of our regatta calendar is **TURNBACK CANYON** scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, May 25-26. With the great success of the 2012 event, this year's Turnback will have a similar racing and party format! The AYC Board also decided to combine the Annual Summer Party with the Turnback event this year, so mark your calendars - you don't want to miss the fun - on and off the water.

Our Fall 2013 regatta schedule will include the **CENTERBOARD REGATTA** (September 7-8), **GOVERNOR'S CUP** (October 5-6) and the **AYC FUND'S 3rd ANNUAL BERNSTEIN/BRINKMANN FLEET CHALLENGE** (Date TBD). More details on these events will be available as the dates get closer.

HELP WANTED: I am currently recruiting volunteers to chair Turnback Canyon and Governor's Cup. Please contact me if you are interested or want to suggest a good candidate.

Race Commander Report by Barry Bowden



The racing at Austin Yacht Club is well under way for the New Year. The annual Red Eye Regatta was held on January 1 with over 20 boats. **John Bartlett's** Bloody Marys and the Mimosa Bar added to the festivities. Even though the temperature was in the 40s a good time was enjoyed by all. The social after the race was made even better by the homemade chili served by the Keel Handicap Fleet.

The first race of the Frostbite Series had a total of 26 boats. The PHRF race format attracted boats from the AYC one design fleets as well as Handicap boats and the great weather made for a pretty day of racing. The second race of the series had to be abandoned for lack of wind.

The 2013 Race Schedule was approved at the January board meeting and is very similar to last year's. There are six series scheduled with a total of 28 days of racing.

Turnback Canyon Regatta will be on Memorial Day weekend, with the same race format as last year. The Centerboard Regatta was moved from Labor Day weekend to the next weekend, and Governor's Cup will be the first weekend in October.

There is a new handbook of the Racing Rules of Sailing for the 2013-2016 period. The rules are reevaluated every four years after the Olympics. There are not a lot of changes to the previous 2009-2012 rules. The Race Committee will be providing an all day seminar on Saturday February 23 with our own **Brad Davis** as instructor. The changes to the rules will be discussed but the basic rules for racing will be the main topic. Look for more information on the website.

There is still a lot of lake to be used for racing. If you are not joining us you are missing out on a lot of fun and some wonderful social time after the races. Come on out to the club, encourage someone who has a boat in the water to race, or just come out and join someone who could use some crew for the day.

Sail Training Report by Jenny Loehlin



This will be our first full year with **Kate Noble** as Sailing Director. We're planning to expand our offerings for both adults and juniors. This is a really exciting time for our club, and I'm looking forward to a great year. Of course, Kate may be full-time but she's still only one person, so there will be plenty of opportunities for volunteers! It's a great way to give back to the sport.

Mark your calendars for the Racing Rules Seminar with **Brad Davis** on February 23. Watch the website for further details. You have all read your new rule books, right?

For those interested in the junior program, there will be a pizza party and information session on February 21. And it's not too soon to be thinking about the Roadrunner Regatta, although it will be later this year, April 6 and 7.

I crewed for Matt Romberg for the first race of the Frostbite Series, and we had **Mairead Nunes** on board for her very first race (along with her dad, **Sean**). And a fine race it was (and you would have had to try pretty hard to get frostbite). I raced with **Ben Froelich** on **Bill Records'** boat for the Red Eye Regatta, and his brother **Ethan** was also racing that day. It's great to see our junior sailors out on the water!

I was saddened to learn of **Terry McDermott's** passing. Terry encouraged me to start racing Fearless and was my first racing crew. As a reward for his mentorship, he wound up trapped under the boat in our very first capsized. I am very grateful for his encouragement and his friendship. He will be missed.

Sailing Director Report by Kate Noble



It has been a busy offseason full of program development! I have just arrived back in Austin from sunny Clearwater Beach, Florida where I attended US Sailing's National Sailing Programs Symposium. It proved to be an invaluable experience! I was able to come together with sailing educators from across the country to share ideas and make connections. Seminars

covered a variety of topics related to management, programs, and instructors. Just a few of the exciting sessions I attended included: "Coaching for Winning and Life Lessons," "Fitness Training



Kate Noble and University of Texas' Kelly Troy (representing Washington Sailing Marina & School) at US Sailing's National Programs Symposium

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Programs for Junior Sailors" (look out, Roadrunners!), "Recruiting, Selecting, and Training the Best Staff," and "Fundraising Development." There were some amazing keynote speakers including **John Craig**, the Principal Race Officer of the America's Cup who updated us on what to expect and how we can get involved in the event. I am so excited to put some of these new ideas in place at the Austin Yacht Club as we continue to grow and build a strong training program.

Adult Sailing

Sail Training Commander **Jennifer Loehlin** and I are working together to develop the 2013 Adult Training Calendar. It will be available by the end of the month. In the meantime, there are several opportunities to get a head start on the season. **Brad Davis** will be conducting a Racing Rules Seminar on February 23. As you all know, 2013 is a rule-change year, so be sure to come on out! The University of Texas is hosting an open FJ team racing regatta on the same day if you're itching to get out on the water. Contact UTST President **Marissa Morrison** for more information. Junior sailors are also encouraged to attend these events!

Junior Sailing

Although we are officially in the offseason of our junior sailing program, many of our junior sailors have remained active and out on the water. **Meredith and Michael Morran** took their C420 out



Meredith and Michael Morran at the Orange Bowl in Miami, FL

on the road once again, traveling to Miami, Florida for the Orange Bowl. Out of an incredible 74 boats (all on one start), the Morrans placed 40th. Congratulations! Wish Meredith and Michael good luck as they make their way back to Florida in February to compete at the C420 Midwinters!

Several of our Roadrunner sailors have been racing much closer to home in AYC's winter events. **Ben and Ethan Froelich** both competed in the Red Eye Regatta on New Year's Day. Ben placed 3rd aboard **Bill Records'** Pearson 26 and Ethan came in first aboard **Matt Romberg's** J29! Congratulations and thank you to Bill and Matt for giving our juniors a chance to sail the big boats. **Sam Peel and Andrew Butler** have been racing with **Bill Records** during the Frostbite series.

Roadrunners don't have to wait much longer to get back in their Optis, Lasers, and FJs! Our season officially begins on March 3 with the Opening Day Regatta. This year we will be having an Opti start. Practices will pick back up on March 9 for the Green Fleet, giving us three weeks to prepare for Texas Sailing Association's infamous Roadrunner Regatta, held right here at AYC on April 6 and 7. If you are interested in participating in AYC's junior sailing program in 2013, don't miss the Roadrunner Kick-off Pizza Party and Info Session on Thursday, February 21 in the Clubhouse from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We will be introducing some exciting new structural changes to the program and kicking off the start of what promises to be a great season of youth sailing. In the meantime, please contact me at kate@austinyachtclub.net for more information on the program and to get signed up for my email list.

Plans for our 2013 summer programs are well underway. This year we are introducing a fifth session of our Junior Sailing Camp, taking our camps into mid-July. 2013 dates are - Session One: June 10-14, Session Two: June 17-21, Session Three: June 24-28, Session Four: July 8-12, Session Five: July 15-19. PB&J will follow the same schedule as last year, with sessions available for Saturdays in June, Sundays in June, Saturdays in July and Saturdays in August. Registration for both programs will be online this year through Regatta Network and will open in early February. With a new advertising campaign in the Austin Statesman and Austin Family Magazine, space will fill up fast so be sure to register early! For more information on both PB&J and our Junior Sailing Camp, visit the AYC website or contact me directly.

NOW HIRING! The Austin Yacht Club is looking for sailing instructors for its 2013 Junior Sailing Camp June 10-July 19! Must be age 16 or older. US Sailing Level One certification preferred. Please send letters of interest to **Kate Noble** at kate@austinyachtclub.net.

TERRY MCDERMOTT ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

January 20, 2013

Photos by Deborah Mathison



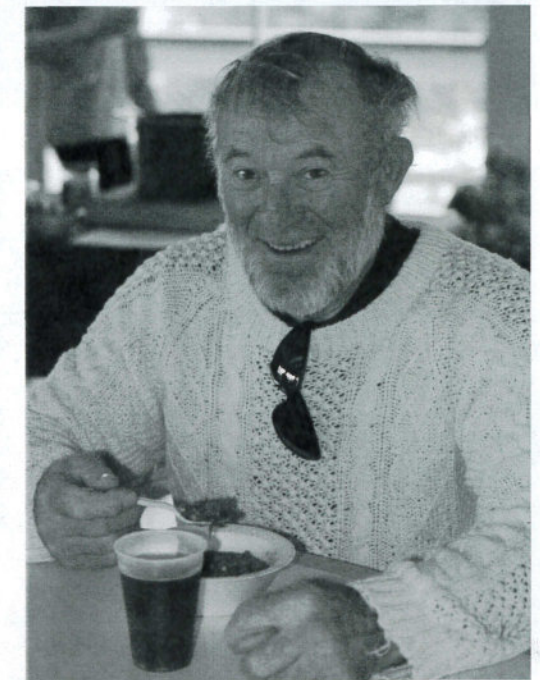
Ravi's "Wednesday Night 9PM Chili" took first place honors - awarded BEST CHILI by AYC's esteemed panel of judges.



Ray's "Rice Farmer's Revenge" chili won MEMBERS' BEST and BEST CHILI NAME awards.



Esteemed panel of judges included (left to right): AYC GM Steve Hawks, Bill Records and Charles Rowland



Mark Your Calendars!

AYC will celebrate Mardi Gras and the Frostbite Series winners at a special N'awlins dinner prepared by guest chef Jim Rehage. If you've been to a Chef Rehage dinner in the past, you know how fantastic it will be!

J/24 Fleet Update

by John and Meiling Parker



J/24 Launching

Since last month's Telltale, no additional J/24s have been launched or retrieved. The water is fluctuating near the level for launching/retrieving a J/24 on the lower aircraft ramp. Let

John Parker and/or Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas know if you are interested in launching or retrieving your J/24. We have found out that the ayeBoat trailer has the lowest keel support at AYC, sitting only 9.5 inches from the ground, compared with about 18 inches for other trailers. That can be the difference between being able to launch or not!

Local Racing

Five J/24s participated in the first Frostbite Series Race on January 19. **Pat Hitchins, Greg Freeman** on UTSCs Betty, **Vicente Saborio, Dave Broadway, and John Parker** and their respective crews participated in this first long-distance race of the series. The second Frostbite race was cancelled due to low winds. We are anticipating that several boats will continue participating in the Frostbite Series, Opening Day Regatta, as well as the upcoming Spring Series.

Maintenance

Several members of the J/24 fleet continue to perform maintenance on the boats and trailers. For the wet-slipped boats, winches are getting maintenance, lines replaced, cleats repaired and replaced as well as we're leveraging the available hydro hoists for cleaning the J/24 bottoms. In terms of traveling boats, **Vicente Saborio** continues to make upgrades and his boat will soon be nice and shiny courtesy of **Fred Schroth**. Also on the queue for Fred's handiwork is ayeBoat. **Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas** and a host of helpers have been busy prepping ayeBoat for Fred's master plan which involves completely removing the deck, turning the deck upside down inside his shop, and repairing the soft spots from the bottom! That's the way the decks are built at the factory, says Fred, so it makes a lot of sense to fix the deck the same way. Stay tuned for pictures of this maneuver, and contact Jorge if you

want to have fun removing 5200! In addition to boat maintenance, fleet members have also been active improving the trailers for the upcoming "road-warrior" season. **Vicente** added a pneumatic launch tire and jack to the front of his trailer and **John Parker** is adding an extra axle to his trailer to improve driveability, ramp launching and retrieving.

UTSC J/24

As you know the UT Sailing Club has joined AYC. They are a very enthusiastic group and we are happy that they base their operations from AYC. One of the boats in the UTSC fleet is the J/24 named Betty. Betty is currently in need of a jib and some turning blocks. If you have some spare J/24 parts and/or sails and would like to help, please contact **Roman Shor**.

Out of Town Trip - February and March

In addition to the Frostbite Series races, we are planning a caravan of "circuit" boats to have fun at Lake Canyon Yacht Club (LCYC). Likely boats from AYC are: Superman, Ooh Ahh, Free Spirit, and Thunder Cookie. Hopefully, ayeBoat will be finished and will be able to join the fun! We plan to use this opportunity to tune the



J/24s at Lake Canyon Yacht Club rigging dock at sunset
Courtesy: Roman Shor

boats and pace on the weekend of February 23 and 24. This will be a great opportunity to practice and learn from each other by swapping crew. After this weekend, we plan to leave the boats at LCYC and race with the local J/24s during the AYC Opening Day Regatta on March 3. After the Opening Day Regatta, we plan to return to LCYC on the weekend of March 9 to race in their Saturday series racing. On Sunday March 10, we will pack the boats and bring them back to AYC. If interested in crewing one of the weekends we go to

LCYC, please contact **John Parker**. Those of you who haven't yet sailed out of LCYC should consider going. It is a beautiful lake and it is only one hour away. We are planning full days of sailing both Saturday and Sunday on both weekends with a key goal of getting everyone a ride!

Catalina 22 Fleet Update

by John Grzinich

The C22 Fleet believes in recycling, fleet captains that is! **Wade Bingaman** was our 2012 fleet captain, a fine job he did. Wade was our fleet captain for several years, several years ago. Now I am back for another turn at it. I also was fleet captain for several years, several years ago. We've been a little light on the sailing lately, so one of my goals for 2013 is get more boats out sailing and racing. However, for our social scene, the C22 Fleet has rocked! We held our annual holiday party December 15 and it was great. Plenty of outstanding food was on hand as our fleet showed their culinary skills with pot luck goodies. The Blackjack tables were busy with folks competing for prizes. An interesting point, our tables were personally built by **Jon Fitch** in his wood shop. And, we blew the doors off the clubhouse as our C22 band, "The Shoal Brothers" jammed on classic rock. Three members of the five piece band are C22 sailors, **Dane Ohe** on guitar, **Joe Roddy** on drums, and **Wade Bingaman** on lead vocals and guitar.

We've got some new C22 owners in our fleet, **Jeff Bloom, Reese Rowen, plus David and Angela Byrne**. Looking forward to working with them to get them out sailing and racing. We've also got some C22 owners that are recycling. They sailed and raced C22s years ago, their boats have been idle for years, but I see activity that makes me optimistic they are coming back. **Jon Fitch** has been busy refurbishing his 1975 C22. Jon says it will have some really nice woodwork in it. **Steve Pervier** has been working for past year to get his 1978 C22 in good sailing condition, he's just about ready to launch. **David Zbasnik** bought a 1982 C22 from a friend and has got it ready to race using a combination of a few new parts, a donated genoa, and a used main. We were all set to



Steve Pervier and Dave Zbasnik on the Rose - ready for Frostbite

sail in the second Frostbite series race, but no wind equals no races. We are searching for a used rudder for **Reese Rowen** for his C22 that he bought from **Brett Wilson**, who is now sailing my 1975 C22, Bebop. More examples of recycling in the C22 fleet.

We kicked off 2013 with Race Committee on February 2. The fleet responded with plenty of volunteers, and **Ted Owens** did the PRO honors. After our race committee duties, we held our annual C22 kick off meeting to plan some of our activities for 2103.

Fair Winds!

Frostbite Sailors Leaving the Dock

Photos by John Grzinich



Jorge Martin-de-Nicolas and crew - J/24



Randolph Bertin and crew - Ensign



Renee Ruais and crew - J/22



J/24s at Lake Canyon Yacht Club Wurstfest Regatta 2012 Courtesy LCYC R/C

Multihull Fleet Update

by Scott Young



Photo courtesy of Canyon Lake Yacht Club

My Introduction to Cat Sailing

For much of my sailing life, I have been a hard-core, one-design dinghy or keelboat racer - and I have the battle scars to prove it! I have very little useful disc space in my low back from years of hiking in twisted positions or shoving my lower back underneath the lower life-line of a J/24 while steering upwind; and, permanent dents in my shins from banging them on the traveller bars on J/24s and J/22s for nearly 30 years.

Catamarans always seemed to me to be on the periphery of my view of the sailboat racing world. Kind of a novelty - not to be taken too seriously - more of a beach toy and nothing more.

A few years ago, **John Morran** and I took the plunge and purchased a Hobie Tiger Cat. Our reasoning was that if nothing else, it would be a fun way to introduce our kids to high performance sailing and also perhaps offer an opportunity to try something new and maybe learn a few things along the way. The conventional racing that we had been doing was starting to grow a bit stale.

It was instantly a hit with the kids! We have had four kids simultaneously trapezing from the leeward and windward side of the cat with spinnaker up and doing 15 knots down the lake. They all think it is so cool that they want to invite their classmates to come out to the lake and try it out. It has a major coolness factor that taking them out on the J-29 just didn't offer.

Another by-product that I didn't expect though was just how challenging and competitive the catamaran racing would be. John and I started racing our Tiger Cat in the F-18 division at AYC and as a rule, we were able to use our one-design skills to secure good starts but after that, it was all we could do to hold off the other teams as the race progressed. It certainly has taken me a while to fight off the urge to tack on every little wind shift. The biggest lesson has been to learn to avoid putting yourself in positions where you are going to go slow. You don't have to be the fastest cat out there all of the time but you have to minimize ever going slow. The difference in going five knots and 20 knots is huge and the distances add up very quickly.

The biggest foibles to avoid usually are things like tacking too short on a lay-line and having to do a few extra down-speed tacks, or approaching the leeward gate on a bad angle and having to head straight downwind with no spinnaker up. This is where you lose major distance to the good guys!

The biggest thrill of racing the catamarans to me is downwind. The angles change so radically based on how much wind velocity each team has. High-speed crossings with the spinnaker up downwind are really fun and challenging. You usually don't know what will happen until the very last second on close crossing so you have to be ready for anything.

Also, learning to get comfortable sailing downwind with the spinnaker up and the windward hull out of the water to reduce drag is really an art and also tons of fun! The trick here is to keep the boat headed up close enough to the wind to keep the crew on the wire but yet still have the windward hull clear of the water. From that point, you just steer the boat up and down to maintain that delicate balance. If a big gust hits, the apparent wind tries to come further forward so you just sail lower. When the puff starts to subside, just head back up to generate more power and keep that hull flying.

We have the catamaran bug in a bad way! We just recently bought a second cat (a C-2, also an F-18) for hard-core racing and look forward to doing a few national caliber events this year and maybe even the Great Texas 300 in June. There aren't many boats that someone over 50 years old can comfortably sail from the trapeze and be competitive with top sailors 30 years their junior. My body is thanking me for the switch, I promise you.

For anyone who hasn't had a chance to sail a catamaran or trimaran, I would strongly recommend it. With the America's Cup now featuring high performance catamarans and the re-introduction of catamaran sailing for the next Olympics, no element of the sport has more potential for growth and fun.

Keel Fleet Update

by Jim Johnstone

This is **Jim Johnstone**, your new Keel Fleet Secretary for 2013. Just to let you know about me, I started sailing on White Rock Lake in Dallas in the 1970s and first competed in a Lido 14. I moved to Northern California and began crewing in PHRF races on the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay, first in a Santana 20 and later in a J/24. I got back to Texas in 1997 and joined AYC in 1999 as the proud owner of a Catalina 22. My last boat was a S2 27, ownership of which recently passed to another club member so I am currently crewing on other boats while looking for a new ride of my own.

Our other Keel Fleet officers for this year are: Captain - **Bruce McDonald** (J/70), Treasurer - **JoAnn Welles** (J/80), A-fleet Co-Captains - **Eric and Brigitte Rochard** (Melges 24), B-fleet Captain - **Kevin Reynolds** (San Juan 7.7), and Non-Spin Captain - **Bill Casnovsky** (Columbia 26).

This year we will again be using PHRF time on time to score the races which makes it very easy for the race committee and scoring; since distances can vary with fluctuating water levels. The PHRF rating committee is composed of new members **Bill Records** and **Bruce Uphaus**, and returning members, for their 3rd year **Brent Schwan** and **Larry Ratliff**, and for their 2nd year **Gray Rackley** and **Linda Casnovsky**.

Our 2013 Fleet PHRF divisions are as follows:

Spinnaker A: PHRF ratings up to 120

Spinnaker B: PHRF ratings of 121 and up

Non-Spin C: PHRF ratings up to 120

Non-Spin D: PHRF ratings between 121 and 195

Non-Spin E: PHRF ratings above 195

The Non-Spin fleet captain will be working with the Race Committee to make adjustments to the fleet divisions as results and participation dictate.

Our 2013 Fleet Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker Champions will be determined by the best combined scores in the 2013 Independence Cup and 2013 Wild Turkey regattas. Make sure you enter both regattas to be eligible to win.

A Fleet Update

Ahoy, A fleet! This is **Brigitte Rochard**. My Husband **Eric** and I have volunteered to be your Captains in 2013. After living in Brest, Paris, Glasgow (Scotland), Phoenix (Arizona) and Grenoble (France), Eric and I decided Austin would be our home sweet home. We arrived in 1998, chose to live in Lakeway and joined the Yacht Club right away. We were lucky to find our boat (Coyote) and within the following month we were members of the A Fleet.

Our three sons **Benoit** (26), **Pierre** (23) and **Alan** (18) share our love for sailing, and started in Optis at the club going on to compete in both Opti and Laser classes in Europe and in the United States.

Barry Bowden, our Race Commander, is asking the A-Fleet for its preference for the long distance races in the Spring Series, to help

with the change of racing format on W-L courses. Let us know your preferences for race format and keep in mind the challenging low level of the lake!

We would like to promote social events in the A-Fleet, happy hours after the races, Potluck, rally up the lake ... email us your ideas.

Eric and I are happy to serve the A-Fleet this year, and wish you all a Happy New Year for 2013.

Non-Spin Update

Hello, everyone, **Bill Casnovsky** here. I have agreed to become your Non-Spin Fleet Captain for 2013. I have established a mailing list and intend to make announcements using my "iContact" subscription. If you are not on my list and wish to be added, please holler.



By way of introduction, I have been an active member at AYC going on eight years. I really appreciate and enjoy all the people and benefits available at the club. Currently, I own two boats: a 6,000 lb., 1971, Columbia 26, MK2 (Banshee) at the club. The other is a 28,000 lb., 1984, Passport 40, (Beau Navire) ocean cruiser, moored in Kemah, Texas. I plan on doing some blue water cruising to exotic places after retirement.

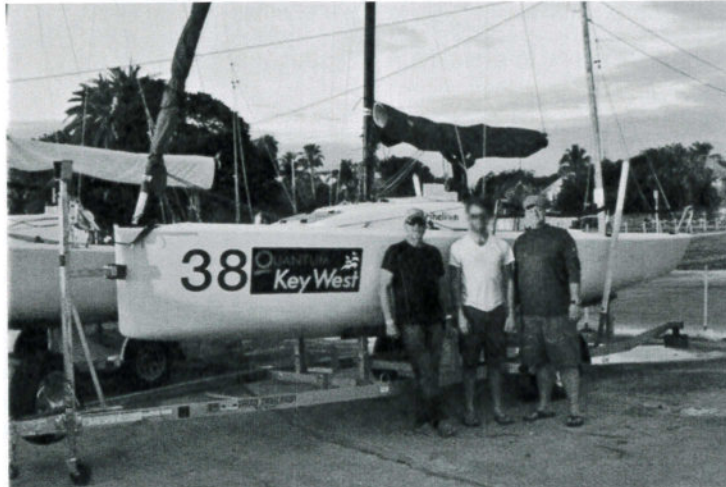
My goals as Fleet Captain in 2013 are several: get to know you better, organize our designated Race Committee events, race as often as possible, resolve any fleet issues that may occur and help increase our overall participation. To promote fair and fun competition this year, we are organized into three PHRF Divisions: C = Up to 120, D = 121-195 and E = 196 and up. Winners in each fleet will be recognized and awarded trophies at the end of each series. I am very interested in your ideas and feedback as we sail through the year. If you need crew or want to crew, let me know and I will contact the fleet.

REMINDER:

An updated AYC directory is in progress. Please verify your personal information is up-to-date with the AYC office so that your data may be captured correctly.

Key West Race Week in the J/70 by Bruce McDonald

Learning to Swim in the Deep End



Key West Race Week. Bruce McDonald (bow man), NWBR (tactician and trimmer) and Ansgar Chorhummel (owner and skipper)

Shortly after receiving my new J/70, I was approached by a new member, **Ansgar Chorhummel**, a J/80 sailor who was purchasing a J/70. His would be delivered to Key West for the January race week. Ansgar asked if he could use my boat for training and use me and my trimmer/tactician for crew. It sounded like a great adventure, so my trimmer/tactician (Name Withheld By Request) and I decided to give it a go. We were fortunate to have **Blake Billman** as a coach, so after several training sessions we, ready or not, were going to Key West Race Week.

For those of you who have never made the pilgrimage, Key West is a 27 hour drive from Austin. Once you arrive in Florida, don't start celebrating; there is still more than half of the way to go. It is a punishing feat especially when done as we did it with two drivers and stops only for food and fuel. We arrived in Key West after dark on Friday, went to inspect the boat, had dinner and hit the sack, exhausted, a state with which we were to become quite familiar over the ensuing week.

Saturday was the day to put the boat together and hopefully get out on the water for some practice. We were somewhat dismayed to find out that the top teams had already been in Key West for six days learning the ropes. We turned our energies to getting the boat put together. "Some assembly required" does not begin to describe the work involved in putting together a new J/boat. There were hundreds of parts wrapped in acres of bubble wrap and miles of packing tape. We worked frantically getting every part in the right place, all the while having to breathe the noxious vapors coming from the cabin. "New boat smell" is, I think, the correct term. Darkness fell and we were still toiling away.

Sunday, we finally got to play. There were practice starts and tuning clinics. We were quick to realize that we were way over our head out there. Most boats had time to practice and had their rigs dialed in. We scrambled to get our act together.

Monday was the day of reckoning. Fortunately, the winds were in the 6-9 knot range. It was an awesome sight with 25 Melges 24s, 11 Melges 32s and our 38 J/70s. We were thinking that with light, shifty winds, we had it made. Unfortunately our starts left us behind a wall of disturbed air and disorganized chop. We finished the day in 35th place.

Tuesday was a little windier (15 knots). We struggled to find a balance between fast and stable only to end up slow, low and unable to hold a lane. There were three races. We ended up the day in 37th place.

A few things about Key West and the J/70 staging area. We really had no time for sightseeing other than travel between the hotel and launch site. In fact, due to our late arrival at the launch site each evening, we usually had to go to the debriefings in our wet sailing gear. Key West is a beautiful island with many period buildings which has become overrun with tourists, giving it a bit of an adult Disneyland feel. The locals can be recognized by their close resemblance to extras from the "Walking Dead." The heavy police presence coupled with the tropical climate gives it a banana republic feel. The launch site was at the Truman Annex, a military site. We had a parking lot for 38 J/70s plus a few Melges. There was a large ramp with room for one boat on each side to drop keel, place rudder and get the sails up. Lest we forget that we were in Key West, we had Key West Duck Tours sharing the ramp with us and about every 15-20 minutes one of the behemoths would muscle their way down the ramp.



Key West Duck Tour muscles down the ramp.

The night before day three, we had a front blow in with 30 knot winds. Fortunately, the winds abated slightly to around 20 knots. The only thing good about the day was some absolutely great downwind rides surfing down 4 foot chop. Thursday and Friday the conditions were about the same and, although we continued to improve in our starts, our finishes continued to suffer. We, unfortunately, held the record for the most fouls in the regatta, including a port/starboard situation with Jeff Johnstone in which he was left with a gaping hole in the side of his new boat. Did I mention that we got a lot better at doing penalty turns?

Continued next page

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The J/70 is a fantastic boat which is extremely sensitive to tuning and sail trim. It rewards good drivers and punishes bad ones. If the rig tuning or sail trim is off, you are toast. The regatta was a huge learning experience and we are back in Austin trying to figure it all out. The location was a great spot for a January regatta and the parties were fun and a great way to get to know the sailors in the new fleet. And, oh, we did NOT finish last.



Our finest moment.

From the Desk of the GM by Steve Hawks

Well AYC made it to the new year and based on the approved actions at the January board meeting, what a year it is shaping up to be. To name just a few of the exciting activities that will be happening at the club this year ... keep reading.

The official 2013 racing schedule was approved and promises to be both fun and challenging. This schedule is now posted on line (courtesy of **Barry Bowden**). The social calendar is in full swing with Friday Night at the Movies, series meals and plans for Opening Day are already underway.

Junior programs will have a new look and attitude this year including a more challenging program for our junior racers and easier registration for junior programs. There will much more information about this in the weeks to come.

Also approved was the replacement of Dock 2, and construction on the new Dock 2 will begin soon after the contract is awarded. In addition to a new Dock 2, a re-dedicated effort at improving ramp access will soon be underway.

Educational efforts will be expanded in a variety of directions and will start with a Racing Rules seminar on February 23, 2013.

By the time you read this, new member cards will have been mailed. If you did not receive yours please contact the AYC office.

Social Committee Report by Cathy Parker

My name is **Cathy Parker** and I'm delighted to chair the 2013 Social Committee. A huge thank you and congratulations to **Susie McDonald** as outgoing chair who made this job look so easy as a leader, and to the rest of our committee who make cooking and serving AYC a real joy.

2013 current committee members are **Margo Bower, Annie Frey, Marilyn Hammond, Joan Houck, Pat Manning, Deborah Mathison, Susie McDonald and myself**. We welcome interested newcomers or seasoned members who might like to work with our committee or just get to know us better. Feel free to contact me - cell: 512-660-3772 or email: cjonesparker@gmail.com - to discuss your interest or with any questions/comments.

Goals identified for 2013 are:

- 1) Clean and inventory committee areas. A "wish list" has already begun with items needed: 4 ladles, an electric can opener, flatware (knives, forks, spoons), 2 gallon size pitchers, food processor, portable mixer, medium size serving spoons. If you have any of these items you'd like to donate to the kitchen, please let us know.
- 2) Work with board members and AYC staff to promote and aid completion of a current picture directory of as many AYC members as possible, to assist all members in getting to know each other better, using action/event photos taken at AYC.

To introduce myself, I'm **John Parker's** mother. I grew up in Belton, Texas, married a mountain man and moved to North Carolina, then northwest Georgia. After retiring from Dow Chemical as an Administrative Specialist I moved back to Texas not only to be closer to family in Belton, but to live with **John, Meiling and Tono** in Pflugerville. My passion is to serve wherever I am. Past responsibilities with catering and events as well as a great team make the Social Committee a great place to be.

An additional note - as we received news of Terry's passing, it is a sad day as those of us on the Social Committee remember him so fondly. He was a friend to all and a hero on occasion to those he helped. In his passing, we celebrate Terry's life and will miss him greatly.

Welcome New Members!

Ric Trent - Associate Probationary
Stefan Froelich - Associate Probationary
Harry Polly - Senior Probationary
Charlie Mayne - Senior Probationary

Opening Day Regatta March 3rd

AYC 2013

Open To:
PHRF Fleets
Portsmouth Multi-Hulls
Optis and FJs

Schedule:
1000 Registration/Brunch
1200 Skippers Meeting
1330 First Race Signal



IN MEMORIAM

Bill Curra
July 11, 1956 - January 15, 2013

William "Bill" Foster Curra died unexpectedly on January 15, 2013 while working in Paris, France. He was born July 11, 1956, in Sanford, Maine, to Richard Sinclair West Curra and Doris Lauriette Foster Curra.

Bill exuded many gifts. His smile, wit, sense of humor, competitive spirit, rapacious curiosity, and love of life can all be traced to the supper table of his youth. Bill grew up roaming the woods, creeks, and rivers of rural Maine and developed a tremendous sense of adventure and a profound respect for his natural surroundings. During Bill's senior year in high school, Bill's family moved to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in South Texas Bill entered the University of Texas, Austin in 1974. He left for a time and served in the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Germany. After completing his army tour, he began his career at the Texas Department of Transportation where he managed the environmental aspects of highway projects throughout the state. In Austin, he worked for Baer Engineering, Blue Ocean Energy, and Reynolds, Smith & Hill. For Enron International, Bill traveled extensively throughout the Western Hemisphere performing siting studies and assessing the potential environmental impact of power production facilities. For Kellogg Brown & Root, Bill performed construction engineering and environmental compliance management. At YemGas, he managed the environmental impact mitigation and environmental compliance for a large pipeline in Yemen. Most recently, he had been working for Technip Worldwide. Bill had been deployed to Technip's Paris, France headquarters for a four- to six-month assignment when he died suddenly.

Bill's genuine and warm smile was the window to his soul. He loved a challenge, whether it was on the court, over a game of chess, or rounding a buoy. Never short on words or opinions, he possessed a Twainian wit. Bill possessed an uncanny sense of logic, gave more than he took, and never left a trail in his wake. He loved his freedom, his music, and his arts. Bill's was at home with everyone in every land. He liked to hunt and fish. He spent many hours gardening at his Deep Eddy community garden plot, working and hiking along Lady Bird Lake and sailing on Lake Travis. He served both on the City of Austin's Environmental Board and on the Lady Bird Lake Trail Foundation Board.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to a charity of your choice or The Trail Foundation, PO Box 2382, San Antonio, Texas 78298-2382.
<http://www.thetrailfoundation.org/>

AYC 2013 RACE CALENDAR

February 9	Frostbite Series Race #4 RC: Multihull 1:30p start
February 16	Frostbite Series Race #5 End of Series RC: J/24 1:30p start
March 3	Opening Day Regatta
March 17	Spring Series Race #1 Skipper's Meeting at Noon, RC: J22 1:30 start
March 24	Spring Series Race #2 RC: PHRF A Spin 1:30 start
March 30-31	Easter Laser Regatta

AYC 2013 NON-RACING EVENTS

February 8	Friday Night at the Movies 7:00p Clubhouse
February 15	Friday Night at the Movies 7:00p Clubhouse
February 16	Mardi Gras Banquet and Frostbite Awards Presentation 5:00p Clubhouse
February 16	J/24 - J/22 Fleet Organizational Meeting 8:30p Cabins
February 21	Junior Sailing Pizza Party & Info Session 6:00p Clubhouse
February 22	Friday Night at the Movies 7:00p Clubhouse
February 23	"Racing Rules" All Day Race Committee Seminar Instructor: Brad Davis
February 28	AYC Board of Directors Meeting 7:30p
March 2	Buildings & Grounds Work Party 8:30a - 2:00p, coffee and lunch provided Rain date - March 9
March 3	Opening Day Ceremony

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore	Christopher Dwight
Past Commodore	Johannes Brinkmann
Vice Commodore	John Morran
Secretary	Jen Schwan
Treasurer	Molly Lewis
Race Commander	Barry Bowden
Buildings & Grounds Cdr.	John Saunders
Harbor Commander	Jon Nash
Sail Training Commander	Jenny Loehlin

AYC STAFF

General Manager	Steve Hawks
Head Caretaker	Tom Cunningham
Sailing Director	Kate Noble
Bookkeeper	Jackie Wheelless

AUSTIN YACHT CLUB

5906 Beacon Drive
Austin, Texas 78734-1428

Office: 512-266-1336
Office FAX: 512-266-9804
Clubhouse: 512-266-1897

E-MAIL AND WEBSITE

www.austinyachtclub.net
office@austinyachtclub.net

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
race_commander@austinyachtclub.net
vice_commodore@austinyachtclub.net
membership@austinyachtclub.net
sail_training@austinyachtclub.net
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Bruce Uphaus, Owner

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All Sales Final. Valid until 9-1-2013.