



BIRMINGHAM  
SAILING CLUB

October 2003

# The Hornblower

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

*Thanks to all those who participated in the Volvo Leukemia Cup Regatta and special thanks to Pauline Neilson and her committees for great planning and execution of a weekend of good sailing, good fellowship, and a fine dinner. Also, thanks to our superb auctioneer, Mike Gordon for a repeat performance of one of the features of this combination fund raiser and regatta. Our members not only made a great effort in raising money for this special cause, but also got a number of interesting gifts donated for the auction. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society was most appreciative of our support.*

*Activity at the Club in general is good, and October in particular will see a lot of members and visitors participating in the Great Scot/Gulf Districts, the Great Pumpkin, and the Cat Caper. Even if you are not sailing in these events, you should visit on these weekends to see your Club in action, and to meet and greet our visitors.*

*Thanks to Kent Irwin for organizing the Lipton Cup team, and their participation at the Lipton's at Pass Christian Yacht Club on Labor Day weekend. This is a great experience for our sailors, competing against some of the top Flying Scot sailors in the US. It also encourages sailors from other Clubs to participate in our regattas and we expect some of these Gulf coast sailors at our Great Scot.*

*Once again our Club sailors carried the BSC burgee to regattas coast to coast.....Porter Fell at the NOOD Regatta on San Francisco Bay, Joe Hart at the Opti North Americans in Chicago, and David and Peter Reich at the Laser Masters North Americans at the New York Yacht Club in Newport, Rhode Island. They should all have some great stories to tell around the fireplace after our weekend sailing during the coming Fall and Winter months.*

Commodore Harry

## **SIR THOMAS LIPTON CUP CHALLENGE TROPHY**

*Ken Irwin*

While most of the Birmingham Sailing Club members were waiting for the fall sailing season to bring breezes to Lake Logan Martin Lake, nine club members attended the Lipton Cup Challenge. And the word challenge described this years event hoisted by Pass Christian Yacht Club.

The Lipton Cup is the premier GYA event of the season with each club sending a team and a club on Flying Scot to compete. The club who won the event the previous year hoists the event. There is always a large spectator fleet and the position of the boats are announced at each mark rounding on the clubs PA system.

This year we had nine club members on the GYA team. Commodore Harry Reich attended the board meetings, cheered us on and was our back up crew. We had a good cross section from the membership with: Kent Irwin (team captain), Richard May, Michel Papp, Rob Garrison, Lesley Anderson, Joe Hart, Andrew Phillips, Patrick Phillips and Vince Priola. The Team met the Sunday before the event to practice at the club but had no wind so they threw Frisbees and polished the club Scot, "Old Blue", in the parking lot.

While Harry was attending the meetings, standing in his commodore costume (see picture), Kent Irwin and Michael Papp rigged the club Scot. They went out for a practice sail and returned before a squall postponed the race. This turned to set the tone for the weekend with races postponed until the weather cleared. The first race was sailed in 12 knot breeze a 1 ½' chop.



Sunday more squalls required the teams to wait most of the day for the weather to clear. One race was abandoned and several boats in the fleet were damaged. BSC's Vince Priola and crew Lesley Anderson and Patrick Phillips got back safely with only minor damage. With many dark clouds on the horizon our team prudently stayed in the safety of the harbor for the rest of the day.

Monday two races were attempted. Our boat suffered a forestay failure. Probably due to the 30 knot conditions on Sunday and with drew. The team went to work and borrowed parts to repair "Old Blue" and sailed the final race for the best finish of the series.

The team did not finish in the top ten like we often have but went to this event to be challenged and have a good time. The success of the event was that nine BSC members came together and sailed, over came some challenges and had fun doing it. If you are interested in sailing a GYA event contact Kent Irwin.

## ***DISTANCE RACE III***

*Bill Berry*

Attention all Auxiliary Fleet skippers and other distance-racing sailors! We have a Fleet Day on Saturday, November 22. Event chairpersons are Carl and Paula Stringfellow. This should be a great time of year for good, strong winds that will let the heavier keelboats stretch their legs.

Recent Distance Races have typically started to weather, then headed up river to a turning mark, and finished at a line back near BSC. The Race Committee is asked to try to get all the boats finished in three hours or less. The race is open to all Fleets and categories of sail boats; indeed, recent overall winners have included Flying Scot, Thistle, and J/22 skippers, and the Cats sometimes just blow everybody away.

Skippers' meeting is at 10:00 AM and start at 11:00 AM. We are planning on some snacks and beverages afterwards.

## **BUNGEE CORD SAFETY**

Capt. Terry Waldron

**B S C SAILORS, please read this short article and maybe it will help prevent an accident that happened to me last Saturday at the club.** I had been helping teach the sailing classes and we had a delightful afternoon session with good wind. It was beautiful to see ten Flying Scot sailboats gliding over the waters on this wonderful Fall day.

Our boat was the fastest of course....we were sailing FAST and my students and I had the crew weight to keep her level in the brisk winds. We had to keep the mainsheet "ready in hand" to release at all times in the "puffs". Ahhh....it was a thrill to sail in some good wind and to see the excitement in the students faces....now there might be a little fear in there also....but just a little bit. I was pushing the boat hard and the two-inch bend in the boom was just right. (Hey, I read that Greg Fisher dinghy racing book too)..... But don't tell Dennis Blass; now he might come out more often and enjoy his sailboat !!

Sooooo....time to come in put the boats up. We got our boat on the trailer and parked back in the right location. We were putting the boat cover tarp on and securing it with bungee cords. I was connecting the last bungee cords to the boat cover and connecting them together under the boat at the stem of the Flying Scott. I was bent over low and pulling hard.....the cord snapped back like a whip and I got it in the right eye hard !!!

Well.... I let go a few choice sailor curse words; walked around in circles a few moments and the blood begin to flow. I needed to go to the ER, so I had one of my students, Mike Schuster I think, get me some ice in a bag and I walked back to the clubhouse and laid down horizontal on the floor.

I want to thank many of the BSC sailors who gave me support and help, especially Mike and Carol Gordon who drove me to the Pell City ER, where I received six small stitches in my right eyelid, then drove me to UAB's Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital in downtown Birmingham. Carol sure is a good driver and Mike was there to help with instructions..... you know how men help their wives while driving an automobile....

Anyway.... here I sit with a patch on my right eye three days later, trying to find the correct keys on this PC, I am scheduled for surgery next Tuesday on my right eye. The good part of this ....I do not have retina or optic nerve damage so far. I do have elevated pressure in my eye and a few other problems.... but I just want to prevent another accident of any kind.... especially with bungee or shock cords.

Please....BSC sailors ...you are my close friends; we share something very unique and it is not always just about sailing or winning or who knows the most about the race course. It is about the spirit of friendship we feel deep down in our heart and soul. It is these feelings I have; that I want you to read and then follow my thoughts on this safety article.

When you pull on these things....keep your face out of the "line of fire" so to speak.....The ER doctors and nurses tell me about 18 percent of their walk-in eye emergencies are from bungee and shock cord accidents. It can be pretty simple....when you pull on a bungee... just keep your face far as possible out of the way. Try pushing away instead of pulling .... then you just get wacked in the back of the head when they let go...hey...I am open to suggestions also mates.

So... there it is mates; enough serious stuff.... now time for more eye drop steroids.... now I am making muscles as I lay around all day. Thank God I can play a mean guitar laying down. And the Doc even said ... no romance ...which comes under that "no strenuous activities" order. Drat....

Arnold isn't the only one to say "I'll Be Back"

### **THANKS FOR HELP WITH THE NEW GATES**

-Richard Condrey, The Gate Man

I would like to thank the following people for their help.

- Ernie McConnell
- David Hardwick
- Bob Lehman
- Harry Reich
- Chuck Newell
- DeVan Ard
- Howard Smith
- Ernie Norris
- Jim and Justin

It is always a pleasure to work with people who will help.  
THANK YOU!!

## **B S C POWERBOATS**

Terry Waldron

All four BSC power boats were up and running fine for our Leukemia Cup Regatta. Many thanks to Kent Irwin and Greg Mestler and their race committee crews in this regatta for a wonderful cause. And many thanks to Pauline Neilson, our Vice Commodore, for her total organization of the regatta. I am sure she had some help but I will let her represent that.

When I arrived at BSC mid-day Friday Sept. 19th to work on the powerboats I noticed the large committee boat, with the Honda 50 hsp, had it's springline tied up completely wrong. The springline was pulling the stern into the dock.....you know the springline is supposed to pull the boat away from the dock. There she sat...our BSC pontoon boat rubbing all week against the wooden dock with no fenders...and you do not need the fenders on the stern, if the springline is pulling the boat away from the pier. This one deserves a big "DUH" and it will go out to the previous week's Sunday race committee.

I will not name names, but please call me and we can discuss springlines over a few sailor beverages. Maybe you can give me a few bungee cord lessons....you know who you are.

I know the old whaler needs her rub rail repaired, a pressure wash and some epoxy paint. Bare with me a few more months and she will get her bottom cleaned and rails rubbed the right way....don't ya just love boats....to me they are almost equal to ...eh...I better not say....

Please remember to neatly stack the racing marks, coil and secure the lines, clean up and organize the covered storage area on the dock.....then lock up.

Call me any time day or night BSC sailors....836-6925. I will be outta commission for a while boys, but I have a capable replacement for a while, Rick Scarborough. I just have not told him yet. When he reads this, he will commit I am sure.

## **SNIFE NEWS**

Sam Yelverton

BSC Snipe Fleet # 828 is in District 4 of National Snipe Fleets. Our district is the Southeastern U.S. This year has been a great year for District 4. We had 3 teams represent the US at the Snipe World Championships and the team of Augie Diaz, Miami, came back with the win. We are now the largest district in the country. District 4 has the honor of being home to the Commodore of Snipe Class International Race Association, Brainard Cooper of Chattanooga. District 4 is also home to US National Secretary, Bill Welch, St. Petersburg, FL. Atlanta Yacht Club promises to host the largest Snipe Regatta in the world again this HALLOWEEN. We have competed in several of these, with as many as 61 Snipes!

## **FALL LASER CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 1-2**

Rob Garrison

Sponsor: Fairhope Boat Company, (251) 928-3417. Contact Tony Chavers for all of your Laser gear.

Rules: The regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the rules of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) and the sailing instructions provided day of the regatta

### **Schedule**

#### **Saturday Nov 1**

Registration		1100-1200
Skippers meeting	1200	
Warning Signal race 1-4		1230
Refreshments		1700
Dinner		1800

#### **Sunday Nov 2**

Breakfast and Coffee		0800
Warning Signal races 5-7		0900
Awards		1200

**Courses:** Courses will be as described in sailing instructions, given day of regatta.

**Trophies:** Trophies will be based on attendance.

**Food:** All meals listed in schedule are included with registration fee.

### **THISTLE FLEET 110 NEWS**

*Jim Binnings*

While doing registration for thistle nationals in Fort Walton this year, a man came in and asked where he could put some posters that he wanted the competitors to see and hopefully take home. In the craziness of registration I don't think anyone really noticed the posters. Peter Reich and I both thought the poster had a lot to say and I wanted to share it with everyone reading the Hornblower.

### **RACING ETHICS GUIDELINES**

#### RESPECTED SAILORS ALWAYS:

1. Know and abide by the racing rules. They promptly: take a penalty or retire when they know they broke a rule, or file a protest when appropriate.
2. Obey event regulations, on and off the water, including housing rules.
3. Are organized, prepared and responsible for their own equipment.
4. Show respect to fellow sailors and those helping to run regattas and programs.

#### RESPECTED SAILORS NEVER:

1. Swear at, intimidate or harass anyone, including teammates, on or off the water.
2. Steal or borrow, without permission, anything that does not belong to them
3. Break laws related to alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.

Paul Elvstrom, four time olympic gold medalist, said it well when he said:

"You haven't won the race if, in winning the race, you have lost the respect of your competitors."

I think he omitted one more important rule of racing. "Don't hit the woodie's"

See you at the Windward Mark

### **MARSH HARTLY SINGLE HANDLERS RACE**

*Kent Irwin*

This past September 27th, eight brave sailors took their crafts sailing in 20 plus MPH winds to celebrate the Marsh Hartley Single Handlers Race. There just about every fleet represented on the race course from Thistles to lead draggers. The contestants had a near perfect fall day to test their single handling skills with a great breeze and fast reaching legs set by PRO Tom Shannon.

For those who knew Marsh Hartly, this was his kind of day he would sail alone. Marsh was a great supporter of BSC and has been missed by all. It seemed that Marsh was smiling, maybe laughing a bit as the men tested their metal sailing alone on a breezy fall afternoon.

#### **Results:**

- 1 Scharborough
- 2 Shiler
- 3 Rogers
- 4 Papp
- 5 Henderson
- 6 R Hartly
- 7 Kip
- 8 Brown

PS: There may have been 10 to sail but this writer had Chris Bright for crew even at the expense of teases and snide jokes from these eight MEN at the awards party!

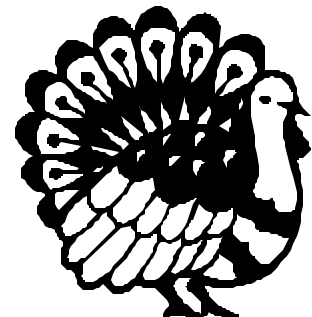
### **TURKEY TUNE UP ONE-DAY REGATTA**

Saturday, November 8

0900 Registration

1000 Skippers meeting

1100 First Race



## **HI SAILORS,**

As I'm sure most of you are aware, Larry and Mil Shannon have officially retired and made the move to the Riviera, Red Neck, that is. This year, in celebration of this milestone, the multihull fleet wishes to extend to each of you an invitation to come to the Cat Caper dinner and party (costumes optional) after the races on Saturday, October 25th. We will have good food and libation, live music, and a special presentation will be made in honor of the Shannons.

I know many of you will be worn out from your own fleet regattas and festivities, but we'd love to have you all come finish the month with us. It will be a great time to share stories and reminisce. Bring your axe and jam the blues with the band.

If you would like to join us for this evening of fabulous fun, you'll need to make a reservation (\$7.00ea) no later than Tuesday, October 21st, by contacting me, Eric Schiller or Mike Sparks.

Hope to see you there,

Stan Muse

## **CAT CAPER OCTOBER 25 AND 26, 2003**

Birmingham Sailing Club Multihull Fleet  
Special Tribute to Larry and Mil Shannon to celebrate their retirement and move to the coast.

### **Schedule**

#### **Saturday, October 25, 2003**

0900 Registration  
1100 Skippers Meeting  
1200 White Flag  
1800 Attitude Adjustment  
1900 Dinner - Party and Music Follows  
Saturday night entertainment—live blues!!!! Featuring Blues&Greys...Costume Requested

#### **Sunday, October 26, 2003**

0800 Coffee and Doughnuts  
1000 White Flag

### **Registration Information**

\$40 for single handed boats  
\$55 for double handed boats

Open to all multihulls. See you soon!

ERIC SCHILLER – 205-222-8823

STAN MUSE – 205-991-3646

## **Rob Garrison makes professional light bracket to go with new club Scot bottom cover**



## **Need Crew? Want To Crew?**

**Check out the available crew list on the website.  
Go to [www.birminghamailingclub.org](http://www.birminghamailingclub.org) and click on  
Racing Program.**

**To add your name to the list, email  
[webmaster@birminghamailingclub.org](mailto:webmaster@birminghamailingclub.org)  
or call Mike Neilson, 591-8683**

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<i>Jim Sisson</i>	Treasurer
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*\* = 2003 Governor*

