



BIRMINGHAM  
SAILING CLUB

April/May 2005

# The Hornblower

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

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*By Commodore Richard May*

One of my favorite aphorisms goes like this: The number of people at your funeral mainly depends on the weather. A humbling thought. If you substitute “regatta” for “funeral” you get a similar result. No matter how much work and planning are put into the event, if the weather isn’t right, the number of boats on the water will be less than hoped for. This is what happened at the Caldwell Cup, our annual regatta to honor our founder, Sam Caldwell. Rick Scarborough did an excellent job in organizing the event. Unfortunately only nine boats started the race. With winds in the 15 to 25 range, many sailors elected to stay home. Some made it to the lake, looked at the water and then went home. After two races, four of the nine boats had withdrawn either voluntarily or involuntarily. Finally, a light bulb went off in the PRO’s head (mine) and the races were called. There were no complaints from the remaining competitors. Loy Vaughn finished first followed by Rick Scarborough and Bill Berry.

We did have a nice turn out for the dinner with about 60 people showing up. Susan Phillips served a delicious Italian meal and a splendid time was had by all.

If the weather on a regatta day is not to your liking, I still encourage you to come up to the club and participate in the happy hour or dinner. We would still like to see you there – even if you do have better sense than to sail in 25-mph wind. See you at the lake.



*(Photo by D. Reich)*

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## RACING REPORT

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*By Bob Blythe*

The racing season is well underway. The year’s first distance race set the tone of the season so far—plenty of breeze! With small craft advisories in effect, the conditions were challenging to say the least. Several boats retired with equipment failures and the survivors had their hands full. Eric Schiller sailing his Prindle 19 took line honors, but came in second to Rick Scarborough in the dinghy fleet. John Acton won in the auxiliary fleet, edging out Carl Stringfellow. At the end of the day, several sailors remarked that it would be nice if we could bottle up some of the wind for the Ironman.



(Photo by D. Reich)

The Ironman rolled around and the bottled up wind was finally released, resulting in no racing Saturday due to steady winds in the mid twenties and gusts well over 30. However, five races were completed Sunday. Look on the home page for some of the great photos taken by David Reich. For details of the racing see the Ironman report.

The Spring Laser Challenge and just completed Thistle South Atlantic District championship were also great successes.

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## **IRONMAN**

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*By Bob Blythe*

“Small craft advisory is in effect on area lakes” said the computerized voice on NOAA weather radio on the morning of the Ironman regatta. The forecast was for winds building into the mid twenties by early afternoon, with gusts in forties. For once the weatherman got it right. When I arrived at the club I was greeted with a report from of the race committee. On the lake, the wind gauge was reading a steady 25, with sustained gusts well into the thirties. Racing was postponed in the hope that the winds would die down enough to allow safe racing.



(Photo by D. Reich)

At around 2:00 J/22 sailor Andy Carson from Nashville decided to take his boat, "Baby J," out to test the winds. From the club house it appeared they were getting hit pretty hard up wind. After turning down wind, they took off and everyone wondered if they fly the chute, since the pole was set. Out it came and "Baby J" took off like a rocket, quickly disappearing from view heading toward the dam. Terry Waldron was on board reported on the action: “We had the mast head wind index in the water for 90 seconds after one extreme broach. A J-22 just does not look right in this horizontal position.”

Another check of wind conditions by the race committee showed that even though the wind had died to below 20 in the lulls, sustained gusts of over 30 were still roaring across the lake. It was decided to abandon racing for the day and attempt to get in an extended day of racing on Sunday. Everyone enjoyed the extended attitude adjustment provided by Michael Papp. Despite the abandonment of racing, seventy stayed for dinner from Irondale Café, arranged by Tim Shultz.

On Sunday the wind was a perfect 7-12 and PROs David Reich and Dennis Blass got off 5 races. A total of 23 boats raced, including 9 from out of town. We had fleets of J/22s, Thistles and Buccaneers. There were three Snipes and an auxiliary in the open fleet. Winning first place

trophies were Alex Krumdieck (Thistle), Rick Scarborough (Buccaneer), Sean Clare (J/22) and Nicholas Granucci (Portsmouth).



(Photo by D. Reich)

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## **SPRING LASER CHALLENGE**

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*By Peter Hopkins, Jr.*

The Spring Laser Challenge was a success, with six boats on the starting line (two of those making the drive up from Mobile to race) and close racing in variable conditions. The first race was in light air, and the wind built in the afternoon enough for the RC to put a reaching leg in the course after lunch. The results are posted below.

We're planning an even grander time for the Fall Laser Challenge, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Put it on your calendars now, so that there are no excuses. Our next fleet day is April 17. I hope to see everyone out there.

Rob Garrison	11
Peter Hopkins, Jr.	16
David Reich	22
Kent Irwin	26
Tom Shannon	32
Matt Lafleur	41

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## **SNIFE FLEET 828**

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*By Michael Papp*

We certainly have had some extreme sailing this year. We were close to getting a Snipe fleet together for the Ironman, but the weather prevented many out of town boats from making the trip. Hopefully next year we will have better luck. Nicolas Granucci did make the trip from Greensboro, NC, and took first place in the open fleet. He was very helpful, and gave some of our fleet members points on tuning their rig. It is very helpful for our fleet members to meet with Snipe sailors from other clubs. I would like to encourage all of our fleet members to travel to events at other clubs. Following is a list of events within close proximity to Birmingham. I am planning on traveling to some of these events this year. Let me know if you are interested in participating.

May 7-8, 2005

Privateer Yacht Club, Chattanooga, TN  
Snipe Southern Championship

Contact: Scott Cline at [clinesail@comcast.net](mailto:clinesail@comcast.net) or  
423-870-2459

June 18-19, 2005

Jackson Yacht Club, Jackson, MS  
Snipe Red Neck

October 29-30, 2005

Atlanta Yacht Club, Atlanta, GA  
D4 Halloween Regatta

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## **JUNIOR SAILING**

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On May 21 and 22, BSC will be hosting the DIYRA Quarter Finals for the Sears, Bemis and Smythe Junior US Sailing Ladder events. (See the March 2005 Hornblower for details.) BSC will host an Opti clinic that same weekend, with instruction by the USODA national team coach. These are

fabulous opportunities for our junior sailors. If nothing else, bring out the family to watch the spirited competition and show the BSC colors.

## BSC Junior Learn to Sail Camp June 25 - 27

[www.birminghamsailingclub.org](http://www.birminghamsailingclub.org)



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## SARASOTA ONE-DESIGN MID- WINTERS

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*By Rick Scarborough*

On March 18-20, Rick Scarborough and Terry Waldron towed Rick's red Buccaneer, Aurora, to Sarasota to participate in the multi-class One-Design Mid-Winters. Classes represented ranged from venerable old classes like Day Sailors and E Scows to the modern rocket ships like the Sr-Max. The class that generated the most buzz was not the Buccaneer, but the 15 foot long Bongo. Designed by Paul Cronin to be a singlehanded sportboat, it has an asymmetrical spinnaker, self-tacking jib, and a 100 lb bulb at the bottom of its daggerboard to prevent capsize. In other words, a

perfect boat for an old guy who is tired of swimming.

After surviving the Caldwell Cup the week before, Terry and I were prepared for the 15-20 knots winds that blew the first two days of the regatta. The waves were not huge, but at about two feet, big enough to present control challenges as well as some exhilarating surfing under spinnaker. We did broach once with North Carolina's Richard West, our main competitor, watching (and laughing) from behind. He did return the favor in a later race, but did not immediately recover, as the rest of the Buccaneer fleet passed him. Waving away the help from the crash boat, he righted the boat, opened the bailers, and caught nearly everybody else to finish a hard fought second place.

Terry and I took advantage of the heavy winds of the first two days to build up a lead that held up through the lighter conditions of the last day. Richard West, a light air master, did not have enough races on Sunday to make up the difference and took second place. Third was claimed by Jessica and Ralph Crawford, of Navarre Beach. Sailors from Lakeland, Delaware, and Maine filled out the fleet.

The Sarasota Sailing Squadron is a friendly club in a great sailing venue. If you find yourself in Sarasota, check out the club as well as the Mote Aquarium, just down the street.



*(Photo by D. Reich)*



(Photo by D. Reich)



(Photo by D. Reich)

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## ***LEARN TO SAIL CLASS GOING STRONG***

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As of press time, a good group of intrepid adults were participating in BSC's Learn to Sail program. Spearheaded by Pauline Neilson, the program offers both classroom and practical instruction to beginning sailors. (See the BSC web site for details.) On Saturday, May 7, several members of the Scot fleet and others sailed with program participants in Flying Scots. The students enjoyed the Club grounds and time on the tiller.

One student in the class is the 42-year-old father of a young boy who attended the learn to sail camp for junior sailors last summer. He decided to take the class to "keep up with" his son. Another is an Atlanta transplant who recently joined the Club with her husband. They are new owners of a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition Scot.

A reporter and photographer from the *Birmingham Post Herald* covered the day, so look for mention of the Club in the mainstream media. The Club and the sport generally owe thanks to Pauline and to the many others who are helping with this valuable program.

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## ***BILLING STUFF***

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BSC is continuing to cross the bridge to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! Remember that all billing is now done online. You will not receive paper invoices in the mail. All members should periodically check the status of their account with the Club by going to the BSC web site and clicking on "Member Statements." If you have any questions, contact Jim Sisson.

***RACING SCHEDULE / COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS***

Date	Event	Fleet Day	Event Chair	PRO	Race Committee
May 14	Spring Fling One-Day	All		Eric Schiller	Nelson Sharp, Margaret Pittenger, Timothy Hutchins
May 15	NO SUNDAY RACES				
May 21	DIYRA Jr. Qtr. Finals – Opti Clinic (Two-Day)	Juniors	Dianne Hart	Michael Papp	Mike Schuster, Robyn Vance, Truitt Ellis, Peter Reich, H. Mike Graham, Chris Killion
May 22	Sunday Races	Aux.		Kip Smith	John Lonsdale Eccles, Rick Brewer, William Lalor
May 29	Sunday Races/Hartley Single-Hand	All	Michael Papp	Loy Vaughn	Larry Van Horn, Robert Walsh, Edwin Taylor
June 4	J/22 Spring One-Day	J/22's	Robert Blythe	Chris Kelly	Mike Schuster, Andy Widener, Truitt Ellis
June 5	Sunday Races	Thistles/J/22's		John Gilliom	Nelson Sharp, David Hardwick, Tom Wilkins
June 12	Sunday Races	Scots/Snipes		Dianne Hart	Tom Adams, Peter Luke, Paschal (Buzz) Redding
June 19	Sunday Races/Couples	All	David Drosdick	Timothy Hutchins	Matthew Morrow, John Livingston, Fred (Bo) Smith
June 25	Smith-Berry Distance	All	Bill Berry, Bo Smith	Harry Reich	Tom Brown, Mike Graham, John Molen
June 26	NO SUNDAY RACES				